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POLITICAL HYPOCRISY.

THERE is, we fear, a large amount of spurious political coin current among public men just at present: in the shape, we mean, of insincere professions, saying one thing and meaning another — Political Hypocrisy, in short. Bribery and corruption at elections, we are told, are the great blots on the working of our Parliamentary system; and everybody professes an ardent desire to eradicate the canker. But we very greatly doubt the sincerity of the current professions on this and kindred subjects, and are inclined to think that this mock anxiety about purity in the voter is much more reprehensible than the corruption it affects to deprecate. If we could believe it to be genuine, the anxiety for purity of election which has so suddenly manifested itself in certain quarters would be refreshing exceedingly; but we suspect members of Parliament, on this and some other topics, are much in the position of those who compound for their own sins by condemning the peccadillos of others. Beneath all this lip-virtue there lie other motives which it is not deemed convenient to avow. Venality in a poor voter of an obscure borough may be a very grievous fault; but insincerity — political hypocrisy — in members of Parliament, is, to our mind, a much more heinous offence. And this offence, we believe, is greatly more rampant at present than were corrupt practices at the late election.

This insincerity on the part of M.P.s, too, is the more to be lamented because it tends to corrupt political life at the source, and its evil influences are certain to percolate through every grade and strata of society. How can people respect legislation when they cannot respect the legislators? How can the goodness of laws be believed in when the honesty

of the lawmaker is open to suspicion? And how can the wisdom and singlemindedness of Parliament be relied on when members resort to talk and pretences to serve party purposes rather than devote themselves earnestly to advancing the

for Parliamentary reform, and loud declarations of anxiety to settle the question in a satisfactory manner; and yet hon. gentlemen act as if Parliamentary reform were the greatest evil that could be inflicted on the country. We have eloquent

panegyrics on the intelligence, virtue, industry, and so forth, of the working classes; and yet most public men seem exceedingly anxious to keep these same working classes from participating in political power. To use a simile which will be intelligible to country gentlemen anxious about the purity of borough elections, the elevation of the working classes, and Parliamentary reform, members of the House of Commons — and of the Upper Chamber, too, for that matter — are like the handicappers at Ascot: they weight the reform horse so heavily, that, like Lord Lyon, it is unable to carry the extra load, and must yield the race to the "Bustics" whose real, though not avowed, aim is to prevent its winning. Now, it may be quite proper to keep the so-called lower classes out of power; those classes may be utterly unfit to exercise it. We don't mean to discuss these questions at present. But, if all this be true, why do not honourable gentlemen boldly and frankly say so? Instead of resorting to the "long game" — instead of talking reform out of doors or getting rid of it by sidewinds — why does not some member rise in his place and move that, inasmuch as our institutions are perfect, and considering that the virtue and wisdom of the country are already repre-



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AT EDINBURGH.

well-being of the commonwealth? To all these charges we unhesitatingly say that a large proportion — perhaps a majority — of the members of the present Parliament are obnoxious.

For instance, we have professions on all hands of a desire

resented, reform in Parliament is undesirable and ought not to be entertained? Why not oppose the Government measures openly and directly instead of by delay, futile instructions, and oblique "dodges"? This would, at all events, be a direct and intelligible course. We could

admire the candour, whether or not we concurred in the opinions, of those who pursued it. It is quite conceivable that men may honestly and conscientiously object to extension of the franchise, and indeed to all political change. They have a perfect right to do so. But it is difficult to understand why English gentlemen lack the courage to act boldly upon their convictions, and to oppose openly what they secretly disapprove. The moral cowardice—to use no stronger term—displayed by the bulk of our public men in these times is most reprehensible. The style of tactics they follow indicates insincerity and hypocrisy, and is therefore immoral, pernicious, and calculated to lower the dignity and impair the usefulness of Parliament.

Then, as to the redistribution of seats. The Government bill may be full of crudities and inconsistencies; it may have been hastily drawn; its principles may be false; and its arrangement of details, in grouping and otherwise, defective. We are not concerned to defend all or any of its provisions. But, surely, clogging it with unnecessary conditions and obstructing progress by motions calculated only for delay, instead of boldly rejecting it, or, accepting the principle of readjusting the representation, going into Committee and amending the bill on the points wherein it is faulty, is an unworthy course of action. This, again, indicates the existence of that against which we protest—political hypocrisy.

On the subject of bribery and corruption, too, honourable members are adopting an equivocal and demoralising course. They talk loudly against corruption; but their whole action ends in talk. They take no steps really calculated to destroy impurity of election. Which of the gentlemen who have lately been engaged in denouncing bribery as more than ever prevalent does not know that it is an old sore, which cannot be cured by penal enactments? Have members of Parliament never seen Hogarth's picture of the free and independent elector taking bribes with both hands at once? And do not all of them know that penal enactments have failed to check the evil? More rigid enactments—such as disfranchising in perpetuity both briber and bribee, prosecutions by the Attorney-General, and so forth—will not cure the evil. They have been already tried, and have failed. The only effects they would produce would be to make briber and bribee more cautious, and proof of malpractices more difficult to obtain. Bribery and corruption are like smuggling, poaching, and cheating the tax collector—nobody thinks them particularly wrong, and everybody is disposed to practise them a little when it suits their purpose and they think it can be done with impunity. It is in the being found out that the sin seems really to consist; and members of both parties in the House are, probably, equally amenable to the charge, only some are more skilful than others. Conservatives have suffered less in the Election Committees than Liberals, of late; but they owe this immunity, perhaps, less to their purity than to their "better air o' hiding." Were hon. gentlemen on either side of the House really anxious to root out corruption, they would adopt more rational means to effect their object. They have facts enough to guide them. Large and dispersed constituencies are comparatively pure; small and concentrated ones are notoriously corrupt. The course to pursue, therefore, is to abolish small, concentrated, and corrupt, and establish in their place large and dispersed, constituencies. The grouping system, where it has been tried, has worked well: then adopt a wise and comprehensive system of grouping. Incorporate with the old and vicious communities new ones untainted with traditional corruption. If the Government bill does not do these things well, then amend the Government bill; but do not practise political hypocrisy, do not propagate political immorality by pretending a zeal which is not felt and making professions of virtue which have no deeper source than mere partisanship.

The discussion of the reform question has given rise to a great deal of dilettante theorising on politics and the principles of representation; but if a little more attention was paid to practical political morality—if we had a little less insincerity, hypocrisy, and lip-liberality, and a little more honest boldness and outspoken frankness—were politicians to oppose openly what they do not approve, instead of resorting to indirect and crooked ways—they would do more credit to themselves, and contribute more to promoting a wholesome condition in the body politic. We are not now advocating any set of political opinions, nor specially condemning the adherents of any particular party. We believe that all parties are more or less tainted with the evil against which we protest. We are pleading for the elevation of public men in political morality—a thing which seems to be unhappily at a very low ebb among them just at present.

THE NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM AT EDINBURGH.

THE new National Museum at Edinburgh, opened by Prince Alfred a few days ago, which is affiliated to the Department of Science and Art, may be said to have originated in the Great Exhibition of 1851, and in the demand which arose soon after for the establishment of permanent museums illustrative of the industrial arts. It was not till 1854 that the first instalment of a grant for the purchase of a site was obtained, and before any steps were taken in the way of building, a considerable extension of the scheme took place, involving the acquisition of a large additional area. For many years there had existed in the University—or College, as it is familiarly called—a fine museum of natural history and mineralogy, and this it was resolved to incorporate with the industrial collection instituted by the late Dr. George Wilson, the first director of the projected museum, but who, unfortunately, did not live to witness the foundation of the structure. An additional contribution of great importance was made by the Highland and Agricultural Society, who offered their large and valuable collection of products and models to the State on condition of their being incorporated with the proposed national museum. Through the diligence of Professor Archer, who succeeded Dr. Wilson, the stores have been greatly enlarged, and, although only a portion of the struc-

ture has yet been raised, there is already nearly sufficient material to employ the entire edifice as designed.

The Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, originally intended to be called the "Industrial Museum of Scotland," is situated immediately to the westward of Edinburgh University. The purchased site includes three sides (east, south, and west) of Argyll-square, one of the earliest outposts of fashionable life when the city of Edinburgh began to burst the ligatures of its ancient walls, and before the new town, now constituting about half of the city, began to spring up across the Nor Loch Valley. A century since Argyll-square, whose gentility has so long faded, was esteemed an elegant quarter; and from the neighbouring Cowgate, now so squalid, the traces of wealth and splendour had scarcely then begun to depart. In the north-east corner of the site stood the Trades' Maiden Hospital, an institution for the daughters of decayed tradesmen, founded in 1704, and now removed to an airier situation beyond the Meadows, and also an Independent chapel (Rev. Dr. Alexander), built in the angle of the site perhaps a century later, and now reconstructed in more attractive style on George IV. Bridge. These two buildings stood at the opening of North College-street into Argyll-square, on the ground now occupied by the east wing of the new museum. With the north side of Argyll-square the street last named is continuous, the two forming a tie at the south ends between the South Bridge and George IV. Bridge, both of which span the Cowgate Valley. The only frontage which could be obtained by such a building is to the north, and but that the neighbourhood is well built upon, the new museum would have occupied a more conspicuous site. But since the building cannot be opened out from any available point of distant view, it has been long proposed to widen the street in front, at present little better than a lane, to a promenade of 100 ft. or 120 ft. broad. It is part of the improvement scheme of Lord Provost Chambers to form such a new street, which will at once do justice to the new museum and to the north face of the massive college building, while it will open up desirable sites for other edifices in connection with the University.

The designs selected for the Edinburgh Museum were those of the late Captain Fowke, architect of the Great Exhibition of 1862. The entire frontage of the building as projected is 400 ft., and the portion now built and opened—the east wing and part of the centre—extends to 170 ft. The design consists of a centre compartment, 266 ft., with east and west wings, having each a frontage of 68 ft., and which are projected 26 ft. in advance of the centre. The wings show triple stories, and the centre front exhibits upper and lower grand corridors, extending from wing to wing. The building is Venetian in style, though, to suit a "weeping climate," the corridors have a frontage of glass, and their open side is inwards instead of outwards, in the form of piazzas or balconies. As in several other fine buildings in Edinburgh, the style wants affinity to the site. The front is to the north, and the sunshine cannot play among the pretty rows of red sandstone columns nor light up the pale grey of the structure. It was at one time proposed to place the Scottish National Memorial to the Prince Consort in front of the building he had founded, but it was seen to be a cruelty to keep even a statue for ever in the cold shade, and finer situations, if less appropriate, were not wanting in and around the picturesque city. The building is set on a massive basement line, and as the ground rises from east to west, the deepest portion is that which has been built, the basement line at the north-east angle being 16 ft. above the pavement. The east wing, from basement to cornice, is 62 ft. high, and, as already stated, is 68 ft. broad. The extreme height of the wing, from foundation to ridge of roof, is about 90 ft., about 16 ft. above the college building. The front elevation of the wing exhibits on the ground floor, which is 20½ ft. high, a series of square windows, in pairs at each side, and with a group of five in the centre. On each side of each group of windows are plain square Doric pilasters in pairs, recessed and paneled between, and supporting a plain entablature. The middle story, 19 ft. high, is enriched with Corinthian pillars, and the windows are circular-headed and balconied in front. The arches of the windows rest on small columns of red sandstone, with flowered capitals, imparting an air of warmth to the structure. The upper story, which diminishes in height, has Corinthian pilasters and other modified ornament. The cornice is richly carved, and forms a bold and striking upper outline. The west face of the east wing, forming a right angle to the centre, corresponds in all respects with the north front. The lower corridor of the centre compartment forms a kind of arcade, the columns which stand in a double line being of red sandstone, the window arches being in pairs, with pilasters and impost piers between the groups. The upper corridor is in the same style, a little more ornamented. In the portion of the centre already built there are six pairs of windows in each corridor. In the immediate centre, which remains to be constructed, the design presents a slightly projected compartment, 56 ft. broad, with a grand entrance reached by a broad flight of steps, and where the arches, being carried down to the basement, will be 20 ft. high by 9 ft. wide. On the cornice are to be inscribed on three separate panels the words "Natura," "Ars et Scientia," "Industria," and a sculptured group will surmount the immediate centre, supported by figures at the angles of the projected compartment. To the west of this compartment will be a repetition of the portion of the structure already built. The only other external feature requiring notice is the ornamental archway over West College-street, connecting the college with the museum. The contractor for the building, which is a fine specimen of masonry, is Mr. David Rae, of Edinburgh. The designs have been carried out under the superintendence of Mr. Matheson, architect of the Board of Works.

The interior of the structure, as opened, consists, first, of a portion of the main saloon, 105 ft. by 75 ft., which will be ultimately extended to 266 ft.; there is a double tier of galleries, the first gallery opening into the upper corridor, and the floor into the lower; second, of the east wing saloon, 130 ft. by 57 ft.; third, of a side saloon in the rear angle of the main and east saloon, 70 ft. by 51 ft.; and fourth, of a lecture-room capable of accommodating 700 persons in the basement and first floor of the east wing, above which are halls opening into the several galleries, which galleries communicate with each other throughout the building. The main saloon, so far as built, is devoted to the display of art-treasures, the east saloon to the natural history collection, the rear saloon to products and industrial processes, the hall over the lecture-room to the display of Indian, Chinese, and Japanese treasures; and the hall in the upper story of the east wing to the mineralogical collection. The whole interior has been beautifully painted by Messrs. O. and J. Moxon, under the direction of Mr. Gamble, of the Department of Science and Art. The Highland Society's collection, already mentioned, is temporarily accommodated and very tastefully exhibited in the range of houses forming the south side of Argyll-square, which, while the present building was in progress, were formed into a kind of temporary museum, and in which the agricultural display will remain till the contract is entered into for the remaining three fifths of the building.

Incomplete as the museum is, it contains already a most beautiful display of artistic treasures, ancient and modern, from all parts of the world, and also an interesting exhibition of industrial processes and products. As in South Kensington, the museum is enriched by several loan collections of great value; and both by way of gift and loan the director succeeded in obtaining for the Edinburgh museum many of the finest things at the Dublin Exhibition last year. Her Majesty the Queen has contributed some fine Japanese fabrics and other examples of Oriental art to the museum, while the Secretary of State for India has sent down a splendid collection of Indian jewellery and costumes, along with the gold chair of Runjeet Singh. Mr. Dudgeon, of Cargen, has added considerably to the collection of Chinese fabrics and treasures, and, upon the whole, the Far East may be said to be well represented in the museum. In antique treasures of Western civilisation, Mr. Napier, of Shandon, whose private collection is one of the finest in Great Britain, has contributed liberally to the museum, alike in jewellery, porcelain, and enamels; and Mr. Horatio McCulloch has also filled a very inter-

esting case. In porcelain, majolica, and ancient pottery there is a pretty complete historical as well as modern collection, the great part of the latter being furnished by the Staffordshire and Worcestershire firms. In plate and electrotype there is also a good display. On the floor of the main saloon a large space is occupied with cases of shot and shell from Woolwich, and small-arms from Enfield, and with the pieces of Armstrong artillery previously shown by the Board of Ordnance from London. The natural history collection, removed from the College, is very extensive and complete. Filling up the central space of the east saloon is the huge skeleton of a whale, 78 ft. in length, caught in the Frith of Forth about thirty years ago. The geological collection embraces the large series of fossils collected by the late Hugh Miller. The technological department, to which great attention has been paid, exhibits an interesting series of British manufactures in various stages of their production. It was as an "Industrial Museum" that the present institution was projected, although its scope has now been enlarged on the South Kensington basis. The new museum has been arranged with great skill, taste, and labour by the director, Professor Archer, and his assistants.

Foreign Intelligence.

THE CONTINENTAL CRISIS.

There seems to be no doubt that Italy, Austria, and Prussia have accepted the proposition for a conference; and it is equally certain that arrangements are being made that it may be held speedily. In Paris there are hopes that it will result in peace, but telegrams from Berlin and Vienna give anything but a hopeful view of the affair. It is said that Prussia, while accepting the invitation to the conference, will not permit discussions in reference to the state of Germany. That she regards as properly belonging to the duties of a German Parliament, of which she has demanded the convocation. Italy's hopes of peace may perhaps be judged of by the fact that a new decree has been issued authorising the raising of a second army of twenty battalions of volunteers. About 60,000 are said to have already offered themselves. Austria's views may be gathered from the fact that she has ordered a forced loan of twenty millions from Venetia. The measure contrasts strangely with Italy's decree. Italy wants men; Austria money. Italy gets what she wants without stint or trouble; Austria, to raise what she wants, has recourse to a proceeding which must still further exasperate the people she rules over.

FRANCE.

The report on the Budget was laid before the French Corps Législatif on Monday, whereon M. Jules Favre took occasion to remind the Government that the Mexican question had yet to be discussed, and asked when the promised papers on this subject would be produced. M. Vuitry evaded giving a direct answer, under the plea that, in the present state of circumstances, great prudence and reserve were necessary.

The Budget for 1867 fixes the ordinary expenses of the year at 1523 million francs, 1½ millions less than the amount requested. The ordinary revenue is stated at 1,617,375,877 fr. The resulting surplus of revenue over expenditure is thus 94½ millions of francs, of which ninety and one fifth millions have been carried to the ordinary Budget. In the extraordinary Budget, the expenditure for which authority was requested is reduced by 1,225,000 fr. The expenses amount to 132½ millions francs, showing a surplus in the extraordinary Budget of 150,000 fr.

SPAIN.

Senor Bermudez de Castro, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed a circular to the Spanish representatives abroad explaining the grounds of the bombardment of Valparaiso. The Minister states that Spain has always been ready to sign an honourable peace.

HOLLAND.

A new Ministry has been formed, composed as follows:—M. Zuylen van Nyevelt, Minister for Foreign Affairs; M. Myer, Minister for the Colonies; M. Heemskerk, Minister for the Interior; M. Schimmelpenninck, Minister of Finance; M. Borret, Minister of Justice; M. Andrae, Minister of Marine; The Ministry for War is still vacant.

SAXONY.

The Saxon Chambers were opened on Monday with a speech from the King. He spoke out boldly. The two great German Powers, he said, had quarrelled, and the smaller States had endeavoured to mediate. Saxony had called out her forces in the interest of the Confederation, and had been threatened in consequence by one of the Powers; but he should keep up the forces, and he relied upon the Chambers to sustain his action.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

M. Jean Ghika has been named Minister of Public Works, and M. Stourdza secretary to Prince Charles of Hohenzollern. Prince Charles has addressed a second letter to the Sultan stating that present circumstances do not admit of his proceeding to Constantinople immediately, but that he will do so shortly. Turkey has decided to forego her proposed intervention in the Principalities in the belief that the Conference on the Danubian question would discover a means of fully vindicating the dignity of the Turkish Government. The Chamber of Deputies has voted the Prince a civil list of 100,000 ducats, but he only consented to accept the sum necessary for the maintenance of his household.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 19th ult. The Fenian brotherhood was again all at sixes and sevens. General Sweeney denounces Stephens as a British spy, and the Fenian senate repudiates his authority. Although some of the circles adhere to Stephens, the fact that they do so while others do not only proves the wide extent of the disruption. A mass meeting of Fenians had been held, at which Stephens made a speech, the burden of which was—more money, a commodity evidently much wanted, as the treasury was declared to be nearly empty.

President Johnson had sent to the Senate his veto upon the bill admitting Colorado as a State into the Union. The Senate adjourned without reading the veto message, the promulgation of which was consequently suppressed.

It was reported that the President, at the recommendation of General Grant, had ordered all white volunteers to be mustered out.

In the Senate Mr. Sumner had offered a petition for the trial of Mr. Davis by court-martial, stating that his trial by jury at Richmond would excite the derision of the world. The statement that the health of Mr. Davis is failing has been confirmed by the report of his physicians.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Chandler (Democrat) had offered a resolution declaring the President's course to be patriotic and constitutional in seeking to protect by his veto and power the rights of the people against the wicked and revolutionary acts of malignant and mischievous men. The action of the President, he said, merited the approval of the House and deserved the support of all loyal men. Mr. Chandler also moved that the Freedmen's Bureau, being unnecessary, should be abolished. The House rejected the resolution by 82 against 22 votes, and afterwards passed a resolution censuring Mr. Chandler for attempting a gross insult to the House.

Captain Raphael Semmes, formerly of the Alabama, who was recently elected Judge of the Probate Court at Mobile, had been forbidden by the President to assume office until pardoned.

Numerous protests from merchants against the proposed export tax on cotton had been presented to Congress.

The cholera had disappeared in the Halifax quarantine, and was rapidly abating in the New York quarantine.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The blockade of Valparaiso has been raised, and the Spanish squadron under Admiral Nunez is in the waters of Callao. A

combat between the Spanish squadron and the Peruvian batteries defending Callao is considered unavoidable. Admiral Nunez declared that it was his intention to commence operations against the fortifications on the 1st of June. He further announced that the port of Callao is declared to be blockaded, with six days' respite for neutral vessels to leave the port with their cargoes.

An engagement took place, on the 17th ult., on the left bank of the Parana, between the Brazilians and Paraguayans, in which the latter were completely defeated, and on the following day Lopez burnt his camp and retreated.

MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 7th ult. state that the Emperor Maximilian has succeeded in negotiating a heavy loan in Europe. The Republicans have suffered a total defeat at Michoacan. The Imperialists have occupied Tanistaro.

Republican accounts state that Mendez had captured the French garrison of Jonuta, the only Imperial force in Tabasco.

It is reported that Escobedo, with 2000 men, is marching on Monterey.

CHINA.

The new rebels in China still remain unvanquished, and the Imperialist Government is trying to bribe their leaders with mandarin "buttons."

The iniquitous coolie traffic has been signalled by another tragedy. A large number of coolies, who were being carried off in an Italian vessel, revolted and set fire to the ship, the result being that upwards of 600 of them perished in the flames.

EX-PRESIDENT DAVIS.

THE following is the text of the indictment against Jefferson Davis:—

The United States of America, district of Virginia to wit:—In the Circuit Court of the United States of America in and for the district of Virginia, at Norfolk, May Term, 1866.

The grand jury of the United States of America in and for the district of Virginia, upon their oaths and affirmation, respectfully do present—That Jefferson Davis, late of the city of Richmond, in the county of Henrico, in the district of Virginia aforesaid, yeoman, being an inhabitant of and residing within the United States, and owing allegiance and fidelity to the said United States of America, not having the fear of God before his eyes nor weighing the duty of his said allegiance, but being moved and seduced by the Devil, and wickedly devising and intending the peace and tranquillity of the said United States of America to disturb, and the Government of the said United States of America to subvert, and to stir, move, and incite insurrection, rebellion, and war against the said United States of America, on the 15th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, 1864, in the city of Richmond, in the county of Henrico, in the district of Virginia aforesaid, and within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Fourth Circuit in and for the said district of Virginia, with a great multitude of persons whose names to the jurors aforesaid are at present unknown, to the number of 500 persons and upwards, armed and arrayed in a warlike manner—that is to say, with cannon, muskets, pistols, swords, dirks, and other warlike weapons, as well offensive as defensive—being then and there unlawfully, maliciously, and traitorously assembled and gathered together, did falsely and traitorously assemble to join themselves together against the said United States of America, and there and then, with force and arms, did falsely and traitorously, and in a warlike and hostile manner, array and dispose themselves against the said United States of America; and then and there—that is to say, on the 15th day of June, in the year of Our Lord 1864, in the said city of Richmond, in the county of Henrico and district of Virginia aforesaid, and within the jurisdiction of the said Circuit Court of the United States for the Fourth Circuit in and for the said district of Virginia—in pursuance of such their traitorous intentions and purposes aforesaid, he, the said Jefferson Davis, with the said persons so as aforesaid traitorously assembled, and armed and arrayed in manner aforesaid, most wickedly, maliciously, and traitorously did ordain, prepare, levy, and carry on war against the said United States of America, contrary to the duty of the allegiance and fidelity of the said Jefferson Davis, against the Constitution, Government, peace, and dignity of the said United States of America, and against the form of the statutes of the said United States of America in such case made and provided. This indictment found on testimony of James F. Milligan, George P. Scarbury; John Good, jun.; J. Hardy Henkin, and Patrick O'Brien, sworn in open court, and sent for by grand jury.

L. A. CHANDLER, United States Attorney for the District of Virginia.

QUEEN VICTORIA is said to be actively corresponding with the King of Prussia with a view to the preservation of peace.

THE FORTS are taking active measures to keep down cholera. Lazarets are to be formed at Suex or Kossair. Three Egyptian war-steamer are to be stationed, for sanitary purposes, on the coast of the Hedjaz. For Turkey, a quarantine of fifteen days for vessels coming from places infected with cholera is established at the Dardanelles, Smyrna, Salonica, Beyrout, Cyprus, Candia, and Tripoli, in Barbary.

THE AUSTRIAN GENERALS.—The *Salut Public* of Lyons gives the subjoined account of some of the principal Austrian Generals:—"The really distinguished leaders of the Austrian army are few in number, and nearly all well advanced in years. They served in 1812 and 1813 under Prince de Schwarzenberg, made the campaign of Hungary in 1849, that of Italy against Charles Albert, and that of 1859, the most important of all. In case of war, those who appear destined to the principal commands are the following:—The Archduke Albert, son of the immortal Prince Charles; Marshal Henry de Hesse, Benedek, Schwarzenberg, and Ciam-Gallas. Marshal de Hesse is seventy-three years of age, spare in person, and of active mind and habits. His career dates from the Battle of Wagram, in which he took part, being then in his seventeenth year. It was he who decided the Austrian victory over the Piedmontese in 1848, by the strategical movement from Verona, and he took a very active part in the Battle of Novara. The Italians regard him as a formidable enemy, and admit that he will give them no little trouble. Prince de Schwarzenberg is tall, well made, and very vigorous, notwithstanding his seventy-two years. In 1848 he commanded a division of cavalry in Italy; he distinguished himself at the Battle of Comorn, in Hungary, by preventing, with his division, the insurgents from debouching on the right bank of the Danube. At the Battle of Magenta he commanded the 3rd Corps d'Armee, with which he covered the retreat of the Austrians. At Solferino he was in the left wing, opposed to General Niel. He is one of the most brilliant officers of the Austrian army, and is, moreover, an author. Marshal Benedek is only fifty-eight. While a Colonel, in 1848, he fought in the campaign against the Piedmontese. In 1859 he commanded the 8th Corps at San Martino. Since Radetzky's death he has been first warrior of Austria. It is probable that he will be charged to oppose the Prussians. The life of Count Ciam-Gallas has been very active: he has shared in all the wars of Austria since 1848. In Hungary, however, he only succeeded in vanquishing the aged General Bem through the aid of the Russians. At present he commands the 1st Corps of the Austrian army at Prague. We must not omit to mention General Gablentz, who commanded the Austrians in the war against Denmark; and General Ramming, to whom Austria was indebted in the Hungarian campaign for the decisive success obtained at Temeswar."

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

To "know town well" has hitherto been considered an indispensable accomplishment of a London coachman; while an acquaintance with the way "over the stones" has always been claimed by the cabman as a recommendation. Neither of these qualifications can be claimed, however, when the whole City and its suburbs are in such a state of transition that a week's absence from town is sufficient to make the oldest inhabitant a stranger in his own parish.

We have made some efforts to keep our readers acquainted with the vast alterations and the so-called improvements which have lately been added to the scheme for rebuilding London, and have so ably succeeded in destroying dwellings for the benefit of railway companies; but the task is a difficult one; and, as a more complete and certain method of attaining that result, we this week publish a Map showing the actual and projected alterations which are now occupying the attention of the special committee of the Commissioners of Sewers. It is extremely improbable that the whole of the "improvements" here set down will be fully carried out; and it will be necessary for our readers to distinguish between those which have been adopted by the commission or ordered by special Acts of Parliament, and which are

therefore in process of construction, and those which have at present only been proposed by the engineer to the commission, and are not yet adopted. The railways, however, which are represented by the dotted lines, have all of them been authorised, even where they do not at present exist. It is satisfactory, in considering this question, to know that, notwithstanding the increase of population, the density of that population in the neighbourhoods which ten years ago were most crowded has considerably diminished, owing, of course, to an increase of inhabitants in suburban districts, which include large areas of ground on which buildings have only been erected since the period mentioned. It cannot be denied, therefore (and this is a subject which is well considered in the report of the engineer to the commission, from whom we gather our information), that as the population extends over an increased area it will become necessary to provide not only for increased railway accommodation, but also for the passage of a larger number of vehicles through our streets, which are now altogether inadequate for the metropolitan traffic; and as a preliminary consideration it must be remembered that there are two great centres of traffic in the metropolis—the Government centre at Westminster and the commercial centre in the City of London, say at the Royal Exchange. With regard to the City proper, where such an enormous tide of traffic rolls every day, it is a remarkable fact that this traffic cannot be estimated by any reference to the population; for whereas the residents in the City have been for some years decreasing in numbers, and now amount to only 113,387 as a sleeping population; the number of persons passing into and out of the City daily will represent three quarters of a million, the mean proportion between riders in vehicles and those entering on foot being 1 to 3.13; the rate of vehicular traffic being in fact greater than that of the increase in the population of the metropolis. Of course, the vast lines of traffic are those from north to south and from east to west; the north-east and east forming one vast suburb, and the south and south-east another, and it is proposed to form either a tunnel or a new bridge to relieve London Bridge; while two new broad lines of thoroughfare are said to be needed between the east and west, one of which must pass through the City.

Of the works already authorised, the Thames embankment and the new street from Blackfriars Bridge to the Mansion House will afford a new route between the City and Westminster, relieving the line of the Strand, Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's-churchyard, and, in a minor degree, of Cheapside and the Poultry, while it will take off some of the traffic now going westward by way of Southwark Bridge; but it will only help to choke the thoroughfare at the Bank, and, to prevent this, Mansion House-street is about to be widened.

The concentration of the Courts of Justice, near Temple Bar, will afford ample opportunities for widening streets in this locality, while the removal of Middle-row, Holborn, will be an advantage as far as regards the diminution of inconvenience at that spot to vehicles coming to or going from the City. The formation of a broad level street between Hatton-garden and Newgate-street, and the consequent abolition of Holborn-hill, will greatly diminish the danger and inconvenience of the existing thoroughfare, but it will not diminish the traffic through existing streets in the City itself; and therefore one of the approaches to the Holborn valley viaduct will give direct access from the southern end of Hatton-garden to the new meat market at Smithfield, forming a direct line from Holborn to Long-lane, and thence to the north-east of London. At the same time, the increase of transit in consequence of the new market will render the widening of Long-lane, Barbican, and Chiswell-street absolutely necessary.

The improvements now being effected by the Commissioners of Sewers consist principally in the widening of various streets forming parts of the main arteries of the City—that is to say, the eastern end of Leadenhall-street, Fenchurch-street, Great Tower-street, Newgate-street, Upper Thames-street, Ludgate-hill, and Mansion House-street, while corresponding alterations are to be made in Basinghall-street, Gracechurch-street, Lime-street, Liverpool-street, Lombard-street, Seething-lane, Threadneedle-street, Throgmorton-street, Tokenhouse-yard, Bevis-marks, Jewry-street, London-wall, and Silver-street.

As regards the additions to the means of railway traffic, we have already referred to the terminus of the South-Eastern now being erected in Cannon-street, near Dowgate-hill, which will relieve London Bridge of many foot-passengers as well as vehicles, while it will probably greatly increase the traffic in Cannon-street. The Great Eastern will have a terminus in Liverpool-street, beneath which the East London, or Thames Tunnel line, will be formed as a link of metropolitan railway communication, diverting some of the heavy traffic from London Bridge and the City thoroughfares. The Metropolitan Railway will also have a station in Liverpool-street, on the south side. These arrangements will cause a vast increase of traffic; but it is believed that the facilities of communication at this nucleus of several lines will cause that traffic to be rapid, and so diminish its inconvenience, although a considerable enlargement of the adjoining streets will be necessary. The Metropolitan Railway, with its extension to Finsbury-circus and the district line at the Thames embankment, encircles three fourths of the entire City, with stations at Aldersgate-street, Finsbury-pavement, Liverpool-street, Aldgate, Great Tower-street, Cannon-street (beneath the South-Eastern), and at Blackfriars Bridge, under the London Chatham, and Dover. When the present authorised lines are constructed, which will be within the next three years, there will be thirteen stations in the City, and no part of the City will be more than a third of a mile from a station, a condition of things which requires no remarks to enforce the necessity for improved street accommodation when we consider that the 70,000 passengers daily carried by the metropolitan railways last year did not prevent the increase of foot and omnibus passengers.

The improvements recommended to be added to those already adopted are a new bridge and approaches, either west of the Tower by Great Tower-hill, or between the Tower and St. Katherine Docks. The latter would involve the removal of Postern-row and the formation of a level street between Great and Little Tower-hill, and a new street from the Minorities across to Whitechapel. The southern approach recommended to this bridge is from the junction of the New and Old Kent-roads, so that an almost direct line would be formed between the latter and Shoreditch, which would include almost all the heavy dock traffic.

A new street 70 ft. wide is also proposed from the east end of the Holborn valley viaduct across King Edward-street and St. Martin's-le-Grand, and bisecting Noble-street, Wood-street, Aldmanbury Basinghall-street (north of Guildhall), and Coleman-street to Moor-gate-street (250 yards north of the Bank), thence across Little Bell-alley to London-wall, along Wormwood-street, to Bishopsgate-street, and so across Houndsditch and Petticoat-lane to a junction with Whitechapel, near Commercial-street, at the spot where a new street is already contemplated from Whitechapel to Commercial-road. This would render necessary the removal of Christ's Hospital, an event which has been long contemplated, and the appropriation of a portion of two churchyards; but beyond this it is asserted that there will be no interference with valuable public property, and that the poorer neighbourhoods which lie in the route will be opened up and vastly benefited.

The minor improvements suggested are the widening of Fleet-street and the formation of a circus at Temple Bar, which might be allowed to remain in the centre of the space; a new street from Farringdon-street to Hatton-garden, communicating with the Holborn valley viaduct, and another to Newgate. Then it is proposed to widen the Old Bailey, and opposite it, on Ludgate-hill, to make a new thoroughfare to the Mansion House, so relieving Ludgate-hill from some of its traffic. The removal of the railings round St. Paul's and the widening of the road has long ago been suggested, as well as the removal of the houses at the end of Paternoster-row, so as to admit of a straight thoroughfare from St. Martin's-le-Grand to St. Paul's-churchyard.

It is proposed, also, to continue Bouverie-street to the Thames embankment, to widen the north end of Queen-street, Duke-street,

Smithfield, Jewin-street, Moor-lane, Eldon-street, Old Jewry; Bishopsgate-street, from Sun-street to Norton Folgate; the Poultry, and Walbrook, as well as to form several small by-ways and minor thoroughfares. The great difficulty which has beset the engineer in his efforts to indicate a really available line of improvements has been the necessity for avoiding the numerous churches of the metropolis; but this has been satisfactorily accomplished, and our readers will now be able to regard the accompanying Map as that of the probable future of the English capital.

THE AILANTHUS SILKWORM.

PERHAPS the most interesting objects not of a floral nature exhibited at the International Horticultural Show at South Kensington, and which attracted a very large measure of attention from the visitors, were the specimens of the Ailanthus silkworm exhibited by Lady Dorothy Nevill, of Danstein, Petersfield. The worm was seen feeding upon the ailanthus plant, while in a case at the root of the shrub were specimens of the creature in its moth condition, and also of the silk spun by it. As, considering the difficulties which have of late years attended the rearing of the ordinary silkworm in Europe, the ailanthus may become of great industrial importance, some account of the creature will be interesting. We accordingly copy from our contemporary the *Field* the subjoined paper on the subject, from the pen of Mr. Tegetmeier:—

"The ailanthus silkworm is a native of the temperate regions of China, where it lives on the leaves of the Ailanthus glandulosa, a shrub formerly known in our own country as the varnish tree of Japan, but now more generally termed the ailanthus. This shrub, which was introduced into Europe by the Abbé Incarville more than a hundred years since, is exceedingly hardy, and will grow freely in almost any soil, flowering, fruiting, and seeding almost equally well in stiff clay, calcareous soil, ferruginous sand, and thriving alike in inland populated districts and by the seaside. It may be cultivated either by means of suckers or by seeds.

"Lady Dorothy Nevill, to whom the first introduction of the insect into this kingdom is due, says, in her translation of M. Guerin-Menneville's treatise on the ailanthus, that 'the seeds may be sown from the months of February till May, broadcast or in rows, and ought to be covered with about half an inch of earth, and they will appear from three weeks to a month after they are sown. With the exception of a few cereal grains there are hardly any other shrubs where the seed germinates so quickly, and it is not uncommon to see some of the shoots from these seeds 30 in. and 50 in. high the first year. Quantities of ailanthus trees have been planted on the Apennines because they resist the bite of animals, and no ground game will touch them on account of the smell they exude when a leaf is gathered or a branch broken off. Those trees destined for the rearing of the worms ought to be planted about a yard from each other; the chief stem cut down every year, so that the young shoots spring up and afford young tender leaves for the worms; and by planting them not too great a distance one from another the shoots join each other, and thus enable the worms to go from one plant to another. As I mentioned before, this tree may be multiplied by its roots, which can be cut off and planted as we do potatoes. Where the plants are yearly cut down they naturally will not flower or seed. Experience has taught me that, if trees are planted from 12 ft. to 15 ft. high, they may be cut down immediately to within 2 ft. or 3 ft. of the soil, so that they will immediately throw out fresh shoots. This tree is so hardy and so easy to propagate that in a plantation of 15,000 to 20,000 plants made in France not one died. In England it is equally hardy. I planted three dozen of standard plants on a sloping bank exposed to the sun; the heads were cut off, and the leaves began to sprout about the middle of May.'

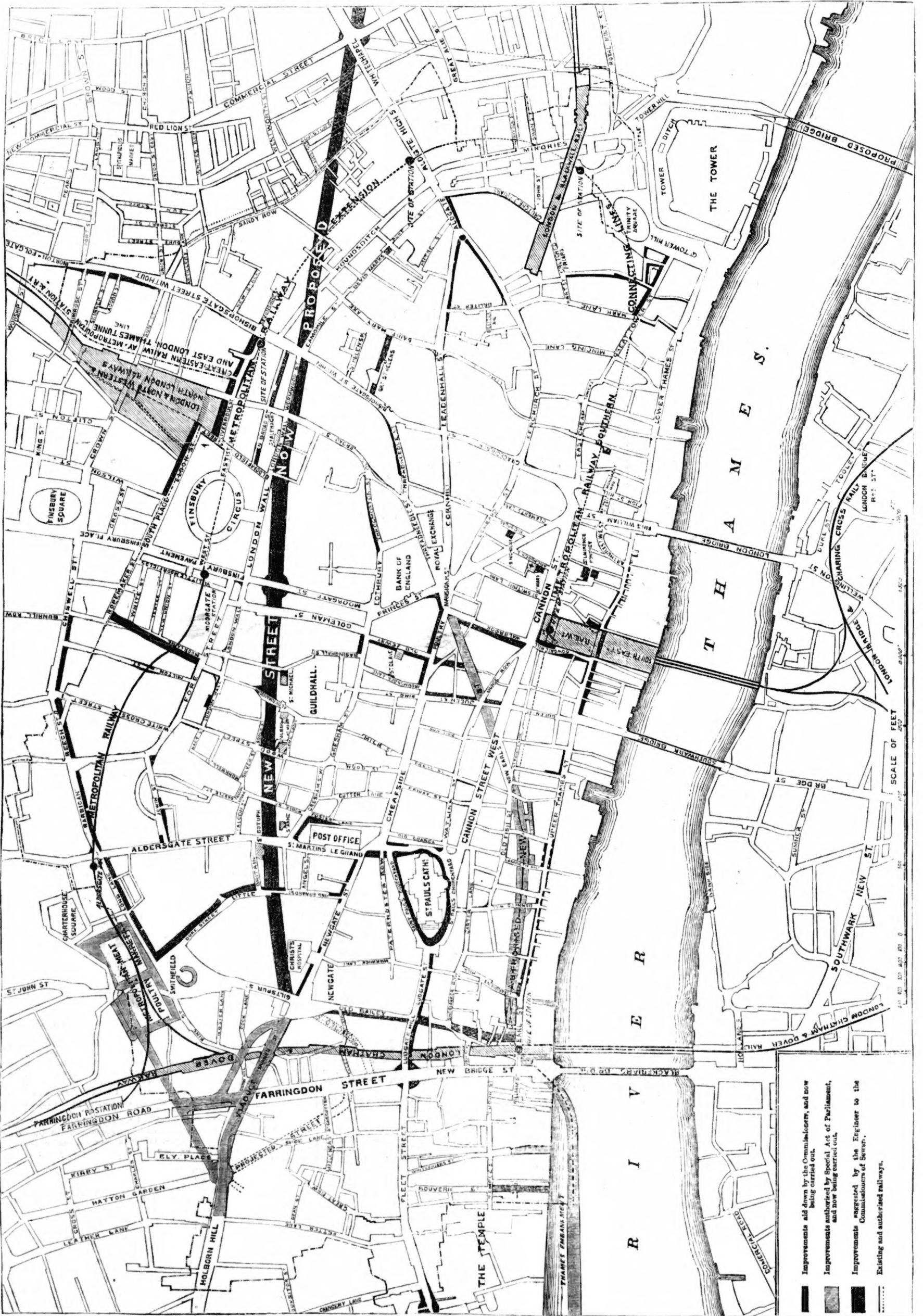
"The Bombyx Cynthia will feed freely on many other plants besides the ailanthus shrub. During the past season I reared many magnificent worms on laburnum leaves, and they all progressed in a very satisfactory manner, attained their full maturity, and spun good-sized cocoons. In China, where this silkworm has been cultivated for a very long period, it is fed on the ailanthus shrub, and is always reared in the open air.

"The credit of introducing this useful silkworm into Europe belongs to P. Fantoni, a Piedmontese missionary in the province of Quan-Tung, who forwarded cocoons to Europe in 1856; these, in 1857, produced moths, which laid eggs that were hatched in a few days.

"In tracing rapidly the life history of this insect, I will commence with the eggs. Those sent to me last July by Dr. Wallace were about one hundred in number, and were safely forwarded by post inclosed in a quill. They are considerably larger than the eggs of the common silkworm. The number laid by the females, however, is much smaller, averaging about 150 each. These eggs hatch in a few days, varying from eight to twelve, according to the heat of the weather, and produce well-made, dark-coloured worms, that pass through successive stages, changing the skin, or moulting, at each stage. Without detailing the exact appearance of each stage, I may mention that the dark body becomes white and is covered with a kind of waxy bloom, like that on a plum, on which the dew and rain cannot settle. Gradually the numerous tubercles with which the rings of the body are covered become green—a lovely emerald, tipped with marine blue, and the last ring of the body is golden yellow, the combination of tints being particularly pleasing. In the latter stages the animals eat voraciously, and when they have attained their full size, varying from 2½ to 3 inches, they alter in appearance, cease to eat, and commence to spin, usually placing the cocoon between two or three neighbouring leaflets. Here, however, a wonderful instinct comes in to play. Under ordinary circumstances the leaflets would fall off in the autumn, and the chrysalis contained in the cocoon connected with them would be liable to be destroyed because of falling on the ground. To prevent this undesirable contingency, the worm, before spinning the cocoon, attaches the stem of the leaflets employed to the main stem of the plant by means of very strong fibres, which perfectly surround the junction, so that, on the death of the leaflet, it remains securely attached to the parent stem.

Thus securely enveloped in its cocoon, the worm changes into a pupa or chrysalis, and so progresses towards its final stage. The period of time required to produce this change varies with the season of the year. The early-laid eggs produce moths in the summer, so that two broods, and consequently two crops of silk, may even in our own climate be secured every season. The later-hatched worms remain in the cocoons during the winter, and emerge in the following spring or early summer.

At the meeting of the Entomological Society, held on Oct. 2, last year, Dr. Alexander Wallace exhibited living specimens of Bombyx Cynthia in all its stages—eggs, larvae in four successive stages, cocoons, and imago—bred by him during the present year; also a branch of the Ailanthus glandulosa, having attached to it a paper bag or cot containing eggs, to illustrate the mode in which the eggs were placed on the living tree out of doors the evening before hatching out. He also exhibited the mode of keeping the cocoons during the winter, strung up in chaplets of fifty each; the perforated zinc cylinders in which the moths were retained for copulation and the laying of eggs; the method of gathering and hatching out the eggs; and specimens of the silken thread which the larva, before spinning the cocoon, wove from the foundation of the cocoon along the leaf-stalk to the bough, so that, though the leaf-stalk in winter become detached from the bough, the cocoon would still remain suspended instead of falling to the ground. Specimens of the silk obtained both by carding and winding were also shown, and several hundreds of the imago were distributed amongst the members present. Dr. Wallace believed he was the first person in England who had attempted to rear the Bombyx Cynthia on an extended scale out of doors without any protection; Lady Dorothy Nevill was the first in this country to rear the species successfully, but this was done under the protection of nets; he was under great obligation to Lady Dorothy for having in the first instance supplied him with eggs, and with specimens of the ailanthus; he had, in March, 1864, planted out by the side of a railway 3000 ailanthus-trees, which were then two years old; some died, owing to



the prolonged draught in spring, and during that year their growth was scanty, but in 1865 their growth had been very rapid, shoots six feet long and an inch in diameter having been put forth. The soil was a close loam. He had made another small plantation in his garden, for the purpose of observation and to serve as a nursery. On this he had placed 18,678 eggs, which were laid between the 1st and 22nd of July. They were laid in the interstices or perforations of the zinc cages, rubbed off upon blotting-paper, and a glass placed over them; the paper could be moistened if necessary. In twelve or fourteen days, according to the greater or less heat, the eggs hatched, prior to which, however, batches of them were pinned in paper pots or bags on the trees in the nursery: once established on the trees, they grew continuously, and when the larvae were about half-grown they were transferred to the trees in the larger plantation, and distributed over them; from these he had, in September last, harvested 5318 cocoons, very few of which were ichneumonised. No larvae were observed to be eaten by birds, though sparrows were abundant, and were seen to pick off the aphides from cabbages growing under the ailanthus-trees; he had lost about 200 by disease; but the greatest destruction was in the nursery, during the first two changes, when spiders, lady-birds, earwigs, and carabids thinned their numbers to some extent. In 1864 wasps were observed to carry off the young larvae, and likewise ants; there appeared also to be a parasitic fly (*Tachina*), and tomites were destructive to the larvae. The growth of the tree was most surprising, and, after the leaves had been entirely consumed by the silkworms, another growth of foliage was emitted, sufficient to nourish a second brood of worms. Of his first brood, 563 moths hatched between the 22nd of May and the 27th of July; of these, 230 fertile pairs were obtained; their eggs were laid from the 24th of May to the 26th of July, and were 37,000 in number; the first larvae from these hatched on the 11th of June, spun upon the 15th of July, and emerged on the 20th of August. Of another batch of larvae, the eggs of which were laid on the 6th and 7th of June, the first hatched out on the 23rd of June, spun upon the 20th of July, and emerged as a moth on the 23rd of August—an interval of thirty-four days—which was spoken of in France as a very short period for the egg to develop into a cocoon, whereas, in this instance, that change took place in twenty-eight days. Of his second brood, 101 moths hatched between the 21st of August and the 21st of September; thirty-six fertile pairs were obtained; their

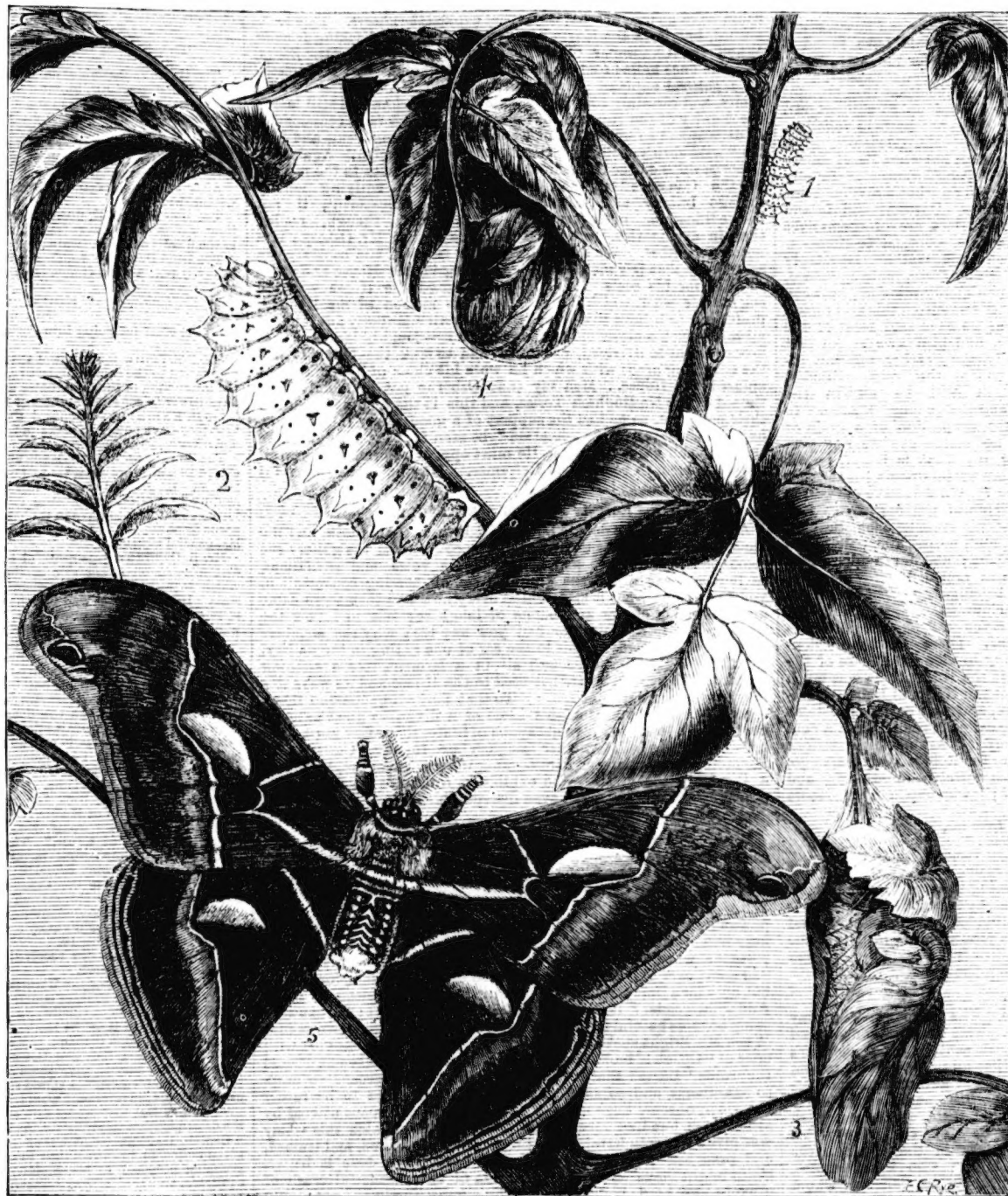
eggs were laid from the 23rd of August to the 7th of September, and were 3433 in number; the first larvae from these hatched on the 7th of September, the last on the 19th of September, and the first would, in two or three days from that time, be undergoing the last moult prior to spinning. Thus, owing to the extraordinary warmth of the season, a second brood would be obtained, and, by commencing

monster upon the native population seemed perfectly incredible until the formidable jaws, armed with fangs of astonishing size, were beheld. Added to this its claws, of prodigious power, and its invulnerable skin, render it most formidable. In the contest which ended in its destruction one claw was torn off, but with this exception the body is in perfect preservation.

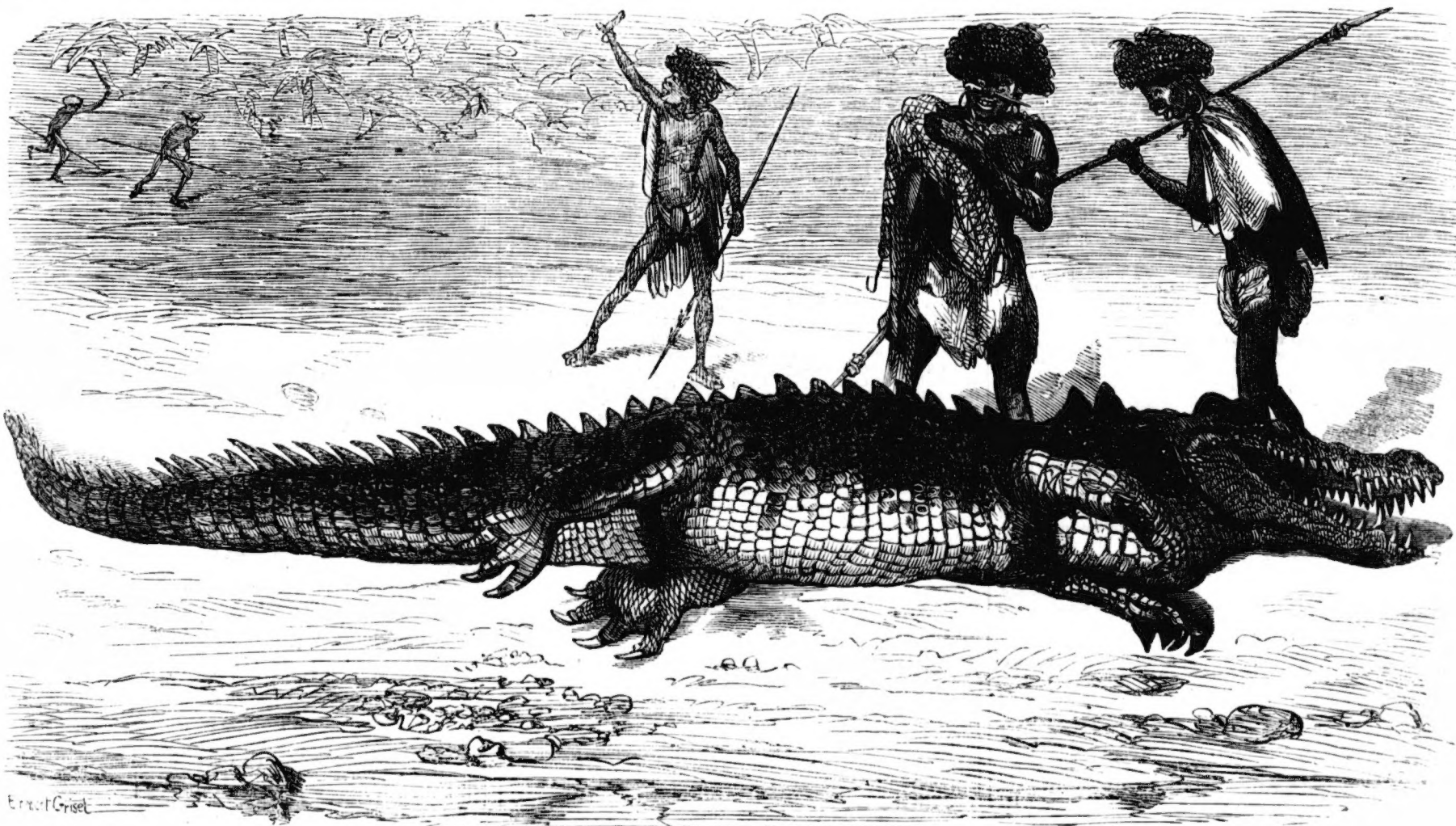
earlier in the year than he had done, this might be made more certain; indeed, Lady Dorothy Nevill had her second brood spun up in cocoon in September. The silk was for the first forty-eight hours quite white; it then became moist, especially at the lower end of the cocoon (perhaps from some emission of the caterpillar), and the colour changed to dirty grey. The larvae, cocoons, and moths all seemed to be finer in this country than in France, as if the soil and climate were more suitable; and all that was now required was machinery to wind the silk. Dr. Wallace considered the experiment a great success, and thought the possibility of cultivating the silkworm in this country was proved; ailanthiculture had one great advantage over the culture of the mulberry silkworm, inasmuch as a crop of silk might be obtained from the ailanthus-tree in its third or fourth year, and in its tenth year it would be in full bearing, whereas it took from twenty to twenty-five years to establish a plantation of mulberry-trees. It might be roughly calculated that the trees might be planted at the rate of one to every square yard, and one tree would yield fifty cocoons; 1000 cocoons would produce 1 lb. of silk, which might be estimated to be worth £1 when spun; on the other hand, one boy could attend to an acre of silkworms, and all the manipulation of the worms might be done by women and children of ten years old, so that the expenses would be trifling.

MONSTROUS AUSTRALIAN REPTILE.

AUSTRALIA seems destined to supply numerous specimens of animals extinct, or nearly extinct, in other parts of the globe. But perhaps the most curious, as it is the most recent, specimen furnished from that country is the huge creature of the Saurian or lizard tribe brought to this country by Captain Clarke, of the Black Ball packet Young England, which arrived in the Thames a few days ago, from Sydney, N.S.W. This creature, of which we publish an Engraving, is, in the opinion of Australian savans, more closely allied to the extinct reptilia of the pre-Adamite era than any living animal yet discovered. It inhabited the unexplored interior of Queensland, near the source of the Fitzroy River. The accounts related of the destruction caused by the



THE AILANTHUS SILKWORMS EXHIBITED AT THE INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW.



SAURIAN REPTILE RECENTLY BROUGHT FROM AUSTRALIA.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 281.

MEAGRE FARE AND FEW GUESTS.

THE House of Commons sat one night only last week. It re-assembled on Thursday evening, at the usual hour, and occupied itself mainly in discussing the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Customs and Inland Revenue and Terminable Annuities Bills till half-past one in the morning. This was very poor and unattractive fare, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have found it difficult to get the requisite forty guests but for the amendment which Mr. Hubbard had on the paper, and the announcement that he meant to divide the House. It was this announcement that brought the members down. They had been whipped up to support Mr. Hubbard or to oppose him, but they could not be held together. Patiently they listened to a long answer of Mr. Gladstone to a question put by Mr. Disraeli on foreign affairs; but when Mr. Hubbard rose, the bulk of them incontinently dispersed almost as rapidly as the Manchester mobs of old days used to do when a rumour came on the wind that the soldiers were coming. Customs and Inland Revenue, Terminable Annuities, National Debt, are of themselves not attractive subjects, except to bankers, political economists, financiers, *et cetera*; but Hubbard on such matters is simply intolerable—dangerous, for asphyxia might come, unless, indeed, balm Sleep should intervene, as she often mercifully does, between listeners and speaker and steal the former away from this arid region into the pleasant land of dreams. So, as we have said, most of the members rose when Mr. Hubbard rose, and hid away. An east wind was blowing outside, and, generally, the weather was not inviting; but of two evils we must choose the least. Besides, why waste time? Hubbard's speech will be all in the papers; and, if he has any knowledge or wisdom to impart to us, which he may have in the proportion of a grain of wheat to a bushel of chaff—certainly not more—can we not pick it out for ourselves in the morning, or, what is better, get it with all the chaff blown away by those useful dressing-machines, the summary-writers up stairs? *Adieu!* We will have our gallop to-day, and Mr. Hubbard's small modicum of wisdom (thus sifted and cleansed) at breakfast-to-morrow. We must be back, though, to divide upon Hubbard's amendment, and, meanwhile, pair off to guard against accident or a snap division; and for a quarter of an hour or so the division-lobby was crowded with members pairing, and appeared more like a betting-ring or Capel-court than the lobby of a legislative chamber. Soon, however, the pairs were all entered, and by seven o'clock the division-lobby was emptied, and silence reigned. There was no division-though, after all, Mr. Hubbard preferring to take "the sense of the House" at some future stage. Still, in the House there was much talk—talk of the dreariest kind—about the National Debt, terminable annuities, and such cognate matters; and some curious questions were raised—for example, is this thing called National Debt a debt at all? and, if a debt, are we bound to pay it? Astonishing questions these, but not new; very old, indeed, for Sir Robert Peel, years ago, wrote, "The public debt was due from ourselves to ourselves, and resolved itself into a family account;" whereupon Tom Moore wrote—

My debt not a penny takes from me,
As ages the matter explain;
Bob owes it to Tom, and then Tommy
Just owes it to Bob back again.

Thus, then, we spent this Thursday evening in large discourse, looking before and after; and, debt or no debt, by forwarding the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill a stage, we provided for the interest; and yet, fearing that this thing may prove a debt after all, in spite of the philosophers, by the Terminable Annuities Bill we laid by, or mean to lay by, something towards diminishing the capital.

NO HOUSE.

On Friday night there was no House. The House on Thursday adjourned till Friday at the usual time. This was duly announced from the chair. Notice thereof had been sent to every member's house, in his "votes and proceedings," that morning. It, moreover, had appeared in all the morning papers; but, nevertheless and notwithstanding, at four o'clock, out of the 658 members not forty were present. Mr. Speaker slowly counted them, pointing at each man with his cocked hat; and again counted, very slowly this time—too slowly to please the reporters in the gallery, the officers of the House, and sundry members who were peeping through the glass door but would not go in, all of whom wanted a holiday. But, slow as the process of counting was, the number could not be made up. There were but thirty-six, all told; and the House, by inexorable standing order, was adjourned. On Monday night following this "no-House" business was brought before the notice of the Government by Mr. Baillie Cochrane, who indignantly asked why no House was made. Mr. Gladstone replied, and named several causes, or probable causes, of the accident; but, like a prudent official, he withheld the true cause. The truth is, the invited guests did not come because the fare was meagre and unattractive. Just look at it as it stands on the carte. Thomas Chambers on the Wynberg Railway, Mr. Darby Griffith on the Danubian Principalities, Mr. Whiteside on the Fenian conspiracy, Sir Maxwell Stirling on the office of Lord-Lyon-King-at-Arms, &c.—all of the same dull and uninteresting character—closing with General Dunne on Irish taxation. Moreover, it was, as our readers will remember, a beautiful evening outside. The wind had changed, the sun was shining, the air was balmy; and was it likely that members would shorten their walks or their rides to come down to such a Barmecide feast as this? It was not likely. Indeed, many of the members who were down, Liberals and Conservatives, would not go in, but stood in the lobby, anxiously waiting for the count; and when the House adjourned, laughed merrily as schoolboys do when a holiday is announced, and sped away to more pleasant scenes. But ought not Mr. Brand to have made the House? Is it not his duty, and that of his myrmidons, "to make a House and keep a House?" Yes; so it is written; and this Mr. Gladstone acknowledged, in humble tone, when questioned on Monday; but added, with great gravity, that the House has of late been so well attended at the opening that Mr. Brand did not think it necessary to make special exertions, which was a good official answer, and so let it pass.

FIRST BLOOD DRAWN.

On Monday the reform war was renewed, and the Conservatives drew first blood, as the sporting men say, and beat the Government by ten in a House of 486. The fight came off before dinner, and, though sharp, was short; for Sir Rainald Knightley, who opened the discussion, did not rise before five o'clock, and at seven the victory was won. Sir Rainald Knightley is a respectable Northamptonshire Baronet, of large landed property, ancient lineage, and strong Conservative opinions. This fight was not on the main question, but upon a side issue—to wit, an instruction to the Committee on the bill to make provision to put down bribery and corruption. Nor is the settlement final. Clauses to embody the decision must be brought up, and thereon there will be another struggle. Sir Rainald, acting under command, did not speak long. "You must be short, Knightley, for all our men are up, and we must divide before dinner." This was the hint given and taken. Sir Rainald is not a taking speaker, and whilst he was on his legs there was so much noise and shuffling about that few heard him distinctly. Truth is, nobody cared to hear him or anybody; the members had not come to hear, but to divide.

FIGHT, NOT TALK.

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose to reply there was silence for a time, but only for a time. At the bar there was a crowd of members standing, and these got up a little discussion, or several little discussions, amongst themselves. The debates here, though, were not all of them about the bill, or anything relative thereto, but *de omnibus rebus*—the last Derby, fishing during the holidays, odds on the Ascot cup, &c.; and with this going on at the bar, and a general buzz of "aside" talk throughout the House, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was heard but imperfectly. Now and then his voice rose above all the din, and a burst of cheering filled

the House, proving that somebody could hear him. Albeit, it would be a mistake to suppose that all who cheered heard what they applauded. Many cheered—those gentlemen at the bar, for instance—because their party cheered. We have known a whole squadron of members rush into the House from the division lobby to join in the cheers of their party; though, of course, they could have no idea of what it was that evoked the cheers. This looks absurd, but it is the House of Commons' way of backing friends. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer sat down, Mr. Bernal Osborne once more lifted up his head in Parliament, and was greeted with general applause; and really, though Mr. Osborne has his faults, and certainly contributes little to the wisdom and still less to the dignity of the House, it was pleasant to see his face, occasionally so defiant and so humorous, and at all times so impudent, and hear his "wild shriek of liberty" ring through the chamber. Again Mr. Osborne opposed the Government by speech and vote, to the rupture of the Conservatives, and delivered a most edifying homily against bribery and corruption, to the amusement, if not the edification, of everybody. Think not, though, reader, that, in saying this, we mean to insinuate that Mr. Osborne is a notorious briber. We do not believe he is. On the contrary, we should say that few men have been so long in the House and spent so little for his seats. No! What amused the House was the solemn air with which he accepted this motion of Sir Rainald, professing to believe that it was moved in all simplicity; as if he, of all men—such a clever old tactician as he is—could be ignorant that it was meant to overload, encumber, and to sink the bill. It was the charming grace with which he wore his cloak of hypocrisy that amused the House. Men say that Osborne got in mainly with the aid of the Nottingham Tories, and this is the first instalment of their pay; but, as he had the support of a good many Liberals too, he must not let the "consideration" be seen to pass. In short, he has a difficult game to play. He must oppose reform, and yet all the while seem to be a staunch Reformer. May he be as successful as he deserves to be!

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER.

After Osborne, the debate fell into little more than a talk, and the House into still greater confusion. You could from the gallery see some one standing up and hear a single voice, and sometimes, as it rose clear above the ground tone of buzzing conversation, you could catch what it said, whilst every now and then there came an explosion of cheers and bursts of laughter; but to follow the speaker was impossible, nor had you any idea why the members laughed and cheered. This to the ear of one sitting in the gallery. To the eye the House seemed all in a ferment, like a seething cauldron. To those who are not used to the House and its ways this must have been a strange scene. To that Turkish gentleman there, especially. How unlike all his ideas of a divan—a great national council, met to settle grave questions of State, this scene must have been! And to all, whether English or foreign, Christian or Mohammedan, Hindoo or Parsee—and, if we mistake not, there was a Parsee in the gallery—the exhibition could not have appeared otherwise than strange, and even disreputable.

A VOLLEY OF GROANS.

When the confusion was at its height, Mr. Bright rose; and suddenly the noise ceased, the restlessness subsided, and for a time we had a calm. Mr. Bright, we need hardly tell our readers, is to half the House and more a very obnoxious person. The respectable Whig mediocrities do not like him. To Conservatism in all its phases he is abomination. But Whigs and Conservatives all like to hear him speak; and, be the House never so noisy, or even tempestuous, when he rises the noise all ceases, as if suddenly a spell had come over the assembly. It was so on this occasion, for a time, but only for a time; for Mr. Bright himself roused the elements again. And what wonder? He spoke of the ballot and America; and can anything be more hateful to the Conservative mind than these two words? When Mr. Bright spoke of the ballot derisive laughter, mingled with cries of "Oh, oh!" broke from the Conservatives; but when he uttered the words "United States," there came a blast of groans, so deep, so unanimous, and so simultaneous, that it appeared to be rather the groan of some huge monster than a chorus of groans uttered by some three hundred men. The precision with which this volley was given was wonderful. Had these men been drilled, and trained, and practised for a month, they could not have done it better. Costa might have envied the precision of this wonderful crash of groans; and Lord Elcho, who sat there, must surely have mentally said, "I wish my volunteers could fire a volley like that!"

DISRAELI'S NEW POLICY.

Mr. Disraeli followed Bright and finished the fight; the Conservative leader was clearly in the highest spirits, and the causes of his exhilaration were not far to seek. There was a storm, and dearly he loves a storm; Colonel Taylor had whispered victory in his ear—"We shall beat them!" and the magic words were like an inspiration to the Conservative chief; and, lastly, once more he felt that he was the real leader of a united party. He rose with uncommon animation, and, dashing at once into the heart of his subject, he spoke eloquently, as orators always do when they are excited; and, being immediately saluted by a volley of cheers, he worked himself into a rage, and, to the astonishment of us all, fiercely attacked Mr. Bright; yes, to our astonishment, for this is something entirely new. For many years these two have confronted each other but have never come into fierce collision. Mr. Bright has always treated the Conservative leader with marked respect, and Mr. Disraeli, to say the least, has rarely, if ever, attacked Mr. Bright. Why, then, this change? Was it policy, or a mere outbreak of uncontrollable passion? Time must show. Meanwhile, we venture to surmise that it was not passion but policy—perhaps the beginning of a new policy. If so, we may look for an exciting encounter or two between these notable men, but not more; and we shall probably not have them yet. Mr. Bright is cunning at fence, and can hit hard, but certainly he is not fond of pugilistic encounters in the House. It is difficult to say which is more remarkable—the power he possesses or the rareness with which he exercises it. For several years the member for Birmingham has been a sort of butt for honourable members to practise upon; and sometimes after a night's discussion, every other speaker in which had hurled his dart at Mr. Bright, we have expected to see the honourable gentleman turn round upon his foes and give them as good as they gave. But, lo! instead of doing this he has either quietly walked away without speaking, or, if he spoke, addressed himself calmly to the topic before the House, and took not the smallest notice of his assailants and their assaults. Sometimes, though, as we know, he deems forbearance not a virtue, and then he strikes once, and settles the matter off hand, as he did with the Adullamites some few weeks back. Mr. Bright, we venture to say, will not soon turn upon Disraeli; but the Conservative leader must not pursue his new policy too far, or assuredly he will get a fall; for, clever as he is at handling the maniles—if we may venture upon a slang phrase—he is no match for the Birmingham athlete. The division went against the Government, and, as was said, the Conservatives drew first blood. What then? Are we at the beginning of the end? We shall, within the next two days, see.

STAMP-OFFICE ROBBERY AT MANCHESTER.—Some time between Saturday noon and Monday morning the office of the Hon. Mr. Howard, Government distributor of stamps, Cross-street, Manchester, was broken into by thieves, and post-office, receipt, probate, and foreign stamps of the value of £7000 were stolen. The thieves had gone deliberately and systematically to work, picking the lock and entering the office of Messrs. Garnett and Co. next door first, and getting thence into Mr. Howard's private office. There they broke open a door, double sheathed with iron, and got into the stamp office. The stamps were in a new Milner's safe, and this they threw over upon some pieces of calico, obtained from Messrs. Garnett and Co.'s place, to deaden the sound. They then used drills, and succeeded in opening the safe. They only obtained £3 to £4 worth of other property, mostly in cash and loose stamps. Of the property taken from the safe it is thought that from £3000 to £4000 worth will be readily convertible into cash. The Hon. Mr. Howard has offered a reward of £400 for information leading to the detection of the thieves and recovery of the property, or a proportionate sum for the recovery of any part of the property.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

As there were not forty members present at four o'clock, the Speaker declared the House to stand adjourned.

MONDAY, MAY 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House re-assembled on Monday, since the Whitsuntide recess. Lord CHELMSFORD, in moving for papers, entered into a long detail of circumstances connected with the case of Mr. Manockjee Cursetjee, a Parsee gentleman, who had been a Judge in the Small Causes Court in Bombay, and who, having been censured by the Bombay Government in a letter published in the newspapers, had resigned his office.

Lord DE GREY gave some explanations, but objected to produce the correspondence moved for.

After some observations from Lord ELLENBOROUGH, the motion was withdrawn.

The Hop Trade Bill, upon the motion of Lord HARRIS, was read a second time, after a few remarks from Lord ROMNEY, who suggested some objections to the details of the measure.

The Land Drainage Supplemental Bill and the Cattle Assurance Bill were severally read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

On the order for going into Committee on the Representation of the People Bill.

Mr. BOUVIER moved that that bill and the Redistribution of Seats Bill be referred to the same Committee. The motion was agreed to, as was also the instruction to the Committee moved by the same hon. member that they have power to consolidate the two bills into one measure.

Sir R. KNIGHTLEY proposed that it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to make provision for the better prevention of bribery and corruption at elections.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER objected to dealing with this question, except in a measure separate and distinct from the subject of Parliamentary reform. He granted that the law was gravely defective, but before proceeding to legislate respecting it more experience was necessary, and the House ought first to have in its hands the reports of the Royal commissions about to be appointed to inquire into cases of bribery and corruption at the last general election.

Mr. B. OSBORNE was grateful to Sir R. Knightley for having been the first member on either side of the House to point attention to a matter which required more reform than even the franchise or the distribution of seats. It was all very well for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to say that more experience was wanted; but, in God's name, what experience did they want if they had not enough already?

A very smart debate ensued, in the course of which Mr. BRIGHT taunted the Opposition with their new-born zeal in favour of purity at elections and condemned the motion as really aimed at the destruction of the bill. In his opinion the only way of curing bribery was to greatly enlarge the constituencies and give them the protection of the ballot. Outside the House, when the debates of that night came to be read, every member who insisted upon adding to the bill matter that did not properly come within the scope either of an extension of the franchise or a redistribution of seats would be adjudged as putting an obstacle in the path of reform and embarrassing a Government whose difficulties all admitted were at least sufficient for the time.

Mr. DISRAELI flung back the taunt of Mr. Bright by reminding him of the most recent cases of Huddersfield and Wakefield, and expressed his confidence that the House would come to a decision without any fear of the threatened "reign of terror." They would not be frightened by the letter written to the Primrose-hill meeting; and he was sure they would not be deterred on the present occasion from doing their duty by voting for the proposed instruction to the Committee. He hoped, however, the Government would relieve the House from the trouble of going to a division.

This course the Government declined to adopt, and on a division there appeared for Sir R. Knightley's motion, 248; against it, 238: majority against the Government, 10.

The announcement was received with tremendous cheering, which was again and again renewed.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving that the Speaker should leave the chair, said that, of course, Ministers would wait for the production of the scheme which, no doubt, Sir R. Knightley had formed, though he had not communicated it to the House, for dealing with bribery and corruption. When they had gone through those parts of the bill which were legitimate portions of it, and they had the clauses relating to bribery before them, it would be their duty to give them a dispassionate consideration; and if the hon. gentleman's proposal would succeed in dealing with that which was a great evil, the Government would be glad to give him every assistance in their power. But they would not, so far as depended upon them, recede from the determination to prosecute the bill during the present Session.

Captain HAYTER (Wells) then moved the amendment of which he had given notice, to the effect that the House was of opinion that the system of grouping proposed by her Majesty's Ministers was neither convenient nor equitable, and that it was otherwise not sufficiently matured to form the basis of a satisfactory measure. The hon. member disclaimed all factious motives, but frankly avowed that he proposed it in direct hostility to the Government.

In the discussion which followed, and which turned almost entirely on the details of the grouping scheme and its local effects, the resolution was seconded by Major Anson and supported by Mr. Bagnall, Mr. Barnett, and Mr. Solator-Booth.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, in opposing the resolution, after remarking on an alteration of its language, drew an elaborate parallel between the Government scheme of grouping and that sketched out by Mr. Disraeli, in reference to the two important considerations—what would least disturb the present system and what was the best bill that could be passed. He examined Mr. Disraeli's defence of small boroughs, pointing out that the bill did not strike at a single seat held by any of those classes on whose representation Mr. Disraeli had laid such stress, and arguing that none of the virtues which might be possessed by small boroughs would be sacrificed by grouping. On the contrary, he argued that grouping would do away with many of the objections to small boroughs, would diminish expense, and would make corruption more difficult.

Mr. SANFORD defended small boroughs and their functions, quoting largely from Mr. Gladstone's speech in 1859, and reading a long list of eminent members, past and present, who had found in them either a nursery or a harbour of refuge.

Mr. LOCKE made an amusing speech in condemnation of the system of small boroughs.

Colonel BARTHELOTT, from examples in his own county (Sussex), showed various anomalies in the representation which would be created both by the Franchise and the Redistribution Bills.

Major JERVIS moved the adjournment of the debate; and

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in assenting to the motion, appealed to those members who had notices on the paper for next night to give place to the debate.

Mr. DISRAELI pointed out that, owing to the curious manner in which these measures had been brought forward, the House had never had an opportunity before of discussing the Government scheme as a whole; and, as no answer had yet been given by the Government to the speeches in which the amendment had been moved, he advised the House in a bantering tone to adjourn the debate until Thursday, to give them the advantage of two days' consideration and reflection.

An animated discussion followed on this point of adjournment, in the course of which Sir G. Grey charged Captain Hayter with having altered his motion so as to change the issue; and Sir H. Cairns imputed to the Government a desire to stifle discussion. Mr. B. Cochrane and Mr. Earle declined to postpone their motions, and the debate was ultimately adjourned until Thursday.

TUESDAY, MAY 29.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of CLARENDON moved the second reading of the Public School Bill, which is the measure introduced last year as it was amended by a Select Committee.

After a brief discussion, the bill was read a second time.

Earl RUSSELL moved that a commission be issued to inquire into the alleged existence of corrupt practices at elections in Lancashire.

Earl GREY moved as an amendment a string of resolutions to the effect that no merely local inquiry would suffice, but that a general inquiry as to bribery at elections was desirable.

After some discussion,

The Earl of DERBY suggested that the debate should be adjourned in order that the Government might consider the question.

Earl RUSSELL consented to the adjournment, but said that to his mind it was clear that the fault lay with the House of Commons in not enforcing the Acts levelled against bribery.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

Mr. H. VIVIAN proposed two resolutions declaring that those who bribed or offered bribes at elections should be for ever disfranchised and disqualified to sit in Parliament, and that those who received bribes should also be disfranchised.

Mr. BUNTON sought to add to these propositions another to the effect that, where there was sufficient evidence, the Attorney-General should prosecute all those against whom acts of bribery were reported.

Mr. POWELL urged that something should be done, and

Mr. B. OSBORNE commented caustically on the difference in the tone of the House that night from what it was on Monday night, when members had

only to talk against bribery, and not to do anything practically to put it down. He charged the Whigs with having originated bribery. He had no great faith in the motion, and strenuously urged that the examination into disputed elections should be taken away from Committees of that House.

Mr. PAUL did not think the motion would have any good effect. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL administered a sharp rebuke to Mr. Bernal Osborne for the manner in which he had spoken of the constituencies, and then proceeded to throw doubts on to the advisability of carrying the resolutions proposed.

Mr. LUSK pointed to the ballot and large constituencies as the only means of preventing bribery.

Mr. VIVIAN offered to withdraw the motion after what had been said by the Attorney-General. This led to another lively debate, in which Mr. Otway, Sir G. Grey, and Mr. D. McLaren took prominent part. The motions were then withdrawn.

CATHOLIC LOTTERIES.

Several notices having been disposed of, Mr. WHALLEY was proceeding with a motion in reference to Roman Catholic lotteries in Scotland, when the House was counted out.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE BILL.

MR. CLAY moved the second reading of his Elective Franchise Bill, the object of which is to give a vote in cities and boroughs to every man over twenty-one years of age in possession of the educational qualifications of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in proposing an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months, contended that the principle of the measure could not be adopted without interfering with that of the existing electoral system, and that it would effect a sudden change for which the country was not prepared. It would also be an approach to universal suffrage, and he was not inclined to admit the wisdom or propriety of allowing the whole of the population a voice in the representation. The bill was not designed to touch the £10 voters, but would let loose upon the franchise a number of young men fresh from school, who would, scholastically considered, form by far the greater part of the labouring population, and swamp the fathers of families, to whom preference should be given. Referring to the nature of the tests proposed, the right hon. gentleman declared his belief that, so far as arithmetic was concerned, there were not thirty men in the House who could divide £1330 17s. 6d. by £2 13s. 8d.

Lord R. MONTAGU promptly declared it could not be done; whereupon Mr. GLADSTONE remarked, amid the laughter of the House, that one illustration was worth a thousand arguments, and that illustration the noble Lord had furnished. Then, summing up his objections to the bill, he described it as too wide in principle, in practice too narrow, and as not being wanted at all.

An animated debate ensued, which occupied the whole afternoon, and was not concluded when the hand of the clock pointed to a quarter to six; and so the bill became a dropped order.

THURSDAY, MAY 31.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LAW OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on this bill,

Earl GREY moved that clause 4, which distinguished two kinds of murder, should be omitted. He contended he could understand two degrees of manslaughter, but certainly not two degrees of murder. The design of the amendment was to strike out the words "murder of the first degree," and to alter the words murder of the second degree to "manslaughter." Their Lordships then divided on the clause, when the result was:—For the retention of the clause, 38; for Earl Grey's amendment, 38. The amendment was therefore carried, according to the rule of the House.

The bill subsequently passed through Committee.

The Hop Trade Bill passed through Committee, as did also the Ecclesiastical Leases (Ile of Man) Bill.

The Companies Act (1862) Amendment Bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The adjourned debate on Captain Hayter's amendment on going into Committee on the Franchise and Redistribution of Seats Bill was resumed by

Mr. F. GOLDSMID, in whose favour Mr. Jervis had given way, who said the main point he urged was this, that if the proposal of the Government to group boroughs having, according to the census of 1861, a population of less than 8000 were adopted, it was expedient that all boroughs which then had a population above 8000 but under 10,000, and which return two members, should henceforth return one only, and that all groups of boroughs, the combined population of which was above 10,000, should in future return two members. He contended that the constituency which he represented (Honiton) was entitled to a second member, and if his proposition was agreed to he would support the bill.

Mr. GOSCHEN said the hon. member who had just sat down suggested that the line should not be drawn at 8000 but at 10,000, and that the seats thus obtained should be given to the boroughs to be grouped; but in these matters it was impossible to fix upon a line which would not have the appearance of certain anomalies and of a certain injustice. Supposing the proposition of the hon. member were accepted, the borough containing 9999 inhabitants would have a similar ground of complaint. The Government had laid down a principle and had not taken in hand to deal with each individual borough. He instanced the grouped boroughs in Scotland as presenting the anomalies as to distance and varied interests which were complained of in regard to the proposed English groups, and yet no one alleged that the grouping of Scotch boroughs was productive of evil results. He defied anyone to bring in a scheme that would satisfy those to be disfranchised, and, with reference to the Opposition, said their tactics were to gain as many recruits as they could from the Liberal ranks under something like false pretences.

Sir J. FAKINGTON contended that the speech of Mr. Disraeli had not yet been answered. As the House had now the whole Ministerial scheme before it, the time might be deemed to have arrived for the House to consider whether the measure, as a whole, might be made in Committee so efficient that they ought to be received as a satisfactory settlement of the great question of reform. The Government had certainly approached the question precipitately, and therefore were open to the charge of having produced an immature scheme.

Mr. LOWE (who on rising was loudly cheered by the Opposition) complained that the Government were constantly attacking vital portions of the Constitution without laying down any fixed principles. All that they could say of the present bill was that it was like all the other redistribution bills which had been laid upon the table. With this scant information he was left to puzzle out its principle as best he could. The country was not prepared to accept a measure the covert object of which was to keep the Government in the hands of the present occupants. The right hon. gentleman concluded a speech of extraordinary force and brilliancy amidst enthusiastic cheers, especially from the Opposition benches.

The Attorney-General having replied, the debate was adjourned till to-morrow (Friday).

tiate, because all diplomatic negotiation has come to an end; and that they cannot resume negotiation, because it has not been officially broken off. That is really the position, if we add that, though no *casus belli* actually exists, it is probably on the very point of presenting itself, and that it has only to do so to lead at once to hostilities.

The following is the exact situation. Austria, alarmed by the progress made by Prussia, and obliged to march side by side with her rival in the war undertaken professedly on behalf of Schleswig-Holstein, lest by refusing she should alienate the sympathies of Germany, finds, when the war is over, that Prussia is determined to appropriate all the spoil. Prussia makes no announcement on the subject, but gets up an agitation in the conquered provinces and publishes articles in official journals in favour of the annexation of both Holstein and Schleswig to the Prussian kingdom. That Austria may be induced to mind her own business—or, in other words, allow Prussia to increase her territory without uttering a word of protest—Prussia assumes a haughty tone; puts, or rather keeps, its army on a war footing; and menaces Austria as much as one man menaces another when he raises his voice, doubles his fists, and places himself in a fighting attitude. Resolved not to be bullied in this manner—resolved, also, not to allow Prussia to beat her on the more substantial question—Austria showed that she also could put on a martial bearing, and this she has done in earnest. She has collected the largest, best equipped, best organised, army that was ever assembled within the Austrian dominions; and Benedek, her best General—who has the reputation of being one of the ablest Generals in all Europe—has gone so far as to issue, in the form of an Order of the Day, what amounts, as nearly as possible, to a proclamation of war.

There is an American game called "brag," in which each of two players makes believe, by every means in his power, that he holds the best cards—striving to force his opponent to throw up his hand by all sorts of demonstrations, and in particular by staking large sums on the result, which the weaker party, if he persists in playing, will have to pay. A timid player of this game may always be in a position to win, and yet invariably lose; for he may be frightened by his opponent's audacity and give up the contest; when, if he had accepted his challenge and had consented to increase the stakes, he would infallibly have come off the victor. This game of brag is now being played politically by Austria and Prussia. Perhaps not a blow will be struck, as, at brag, it may so happen that not a card is played; but it is evident that Austria is not to be frightened by Prussia's parade of strength, and she has already replied to it and gone beyond it by making a much more formidable demonstration on her side.

But politics, it may be said, are, after all, something more than a game at cards, and Prussia and Austria would not engage in a war which, whoever may be the conqueror in the end, must be disastrous to both sides, unless great interests were involved. Indeed, beneath this Schleswig-Holstein question, which has led to the present state of things in Europe, lies the old question of the balance of power as well as the modern one of the leadership in Germany. Austria certainly never coveted the smallest inch of territory either in Holstein or in Schleswig. She might as well have thought of annexing territory in Greenland. But she knows that Prussia has long been trying to deprive her of all influence in German affairs; and if she allowed Prussia to seize Schleswig and Holstein and incorporate them with her dominions she would no longer be one of two leading Powers in Germany. Prussia would be incontestably the leader, and Austria would occupy but a secondary position, and might prepare herself before long to be turned out of Germany altogether, and forced, in accordance with the recommendation already said to have been given to her by M. de Bismarck, to regard Pesh as her true capital.

It is to be hoped that "brag" is really the game at which Austria and Prussia have been playing. But we fear that each party has now gone so far, and is so determined to see what the other can do, that the game, whatever it be, will have to be fought out. Neither side will give up, and the only hope that remains is that the players may both be prevailed upon to retire.

In the meanwhile a conference is about to assemble, to which all pending disputes are to be referred. The greatest of these is the one of which we have just been speaking. But before doing anything in the matter of the Austro-Prussian quarrel it will be necessary to see whether some arrangement cannot be made by which Austria might, without humiliation or substantial loss, cede Venetia to Italy. It has been stated very confidently that the English proposition at the conference will be to the effect that Venetia be made over to Italy, the Danubian Principalities to Austria, and that twenty millions, in some coin or other, be paid by Italy to Turkey. This, however, would not only be robbing Turkey to pay Italy, it would be subjecting Roumania to a foreign Power in order that Venetia might be self-governing and free. Turkey, it is true, would not lose much; for at present she only receives an annual tribute from Roumania, and if this annual payment were capitalised and paid to her in one sum she might consider that she had made an excellent bargain. But the Roumanians do not wish to become Austrian subjects; nor, indeed, would Russia, without a war, and without reopening the whole Eastern question, consent to the final appropriation of provinces which she has been expecting for the last century and a half to drop into her lap. This is the first difficulty the conference will have to meet. In the improbable event of its being overcome, the Austro-Prussian difficulty would still be found insuperable.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY was kept on Saturday last. There was the usual holiday-making in the public departments, and there were the usual illuminations in the evening. All the Cabinet Ministers gave state dinners.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to lay the first stone of the New North Staffordshire Infirmary at Hartshill, near Stoke-upon-Trent, on Monday, June 25.

PRINCESS MARY and PRINCE TECK are to spend their honeymoon at Ashbridge, the seat of Earl Brownlow.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, better known as Prince Alfred, was made a Grocer on Saturday last. He visited the hall of the Grocers' Company, received the freedom of the company, and then took luncheon with the Grocers in their hall.

LORD WODEHOUSE, it is officially announced, has been raised to the dignity of an Earl of the United Kingdom, by the name, style, and title of Earl of Kimberley, in the county of Norfolk.

COUNT DE MONTALEMBERT has had a severe return of an intestine malady with which he has been many years afflicted.

LORD CHESTERFIELD was attacked with paralysis on Sunday, and has ever since been in a dangerous state.

THE POPE has sent a Cardinal's hat to Dr. Cullen, who is the first Irish Bishop who has been elevated by the Holy See to this dignity.

THE INFANT PRINCESS, daughter of the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, has been baptized at Berlin, and received the names of Friederika Wilhelmina Amelie Victoria.

PRINCE CHARLES OF HOHENZOLLERN, the newly-elected Prince of Roumania, has, at his own request, obtained leave to quit the Prussian army, in which he held the rank of captain.

GOVERNOR EYRE has left Jamaica in an English man-of-war.

PICCOLINI is said to be suffering from a cancerous disease.

THE WIMBLEDON RIFLE MEETING will commence on July 9.

THE BARONESS DE PAUSADES, of Bachen, has just died at Aire (Ardennes) aged 105 years.

SEVERAL NEW LEGIONS OF TURCOS are now being formed in Algeria.

A GRAND COMPLIMENTARY DINNER is to be given to Admiral Rous next week. Earl Granville will preside, and the Prince of Wales is likely to honour the occasion with his presence.

SIR MORTON PETO'S business is going on as usual, and will go on, notwithstanding his "stoppage."

MR. SWINBURNE'S *magnum opus*, a portly volume of miscellaneous poems, is in the press, and will be very shortly published by Messrs. Moxon and Co.

A MISS STEBBINS, of Chicasaw county, Iowa, has received an appointment as notary public for that county.

WARNER, the Fenian informer, is likely to recover from the effects of his wound. He was to have sailed for Canada with his family on the 31st ult.

A THOUSAND NIGHTINGALES have been caught in Austria, at the request of the Emperor Maximilian, and will be speedily shipped for Mexico.

TEN FRENCH ZOUAVES, who have just received their discharge, have gone to join Garibaldi.

THE REMAINS of the REV. FRANCIS MAHONY (Father Prout) were interred, on Monday, in the family vault, at Shandon, Cork, having been received by the friends of the deceased, from Paris, on the previous evening.

THE 89th REGIMENT is henceforth to be entitled "Princess Victoria Regiment," in commemoration of a recent presentation of colours to replace those presented by the Queen when Princess Victoria.

IN LEIPZIG people are busy drinking up all the wine they have in their cellars, lest the military guests shortly expected should do it for them.

THE VINES in several localities of Burgundy and the Beaujolais have suffered from the cold northerly winds which lately prevailed, but the vegetation was too far advanced for the consequences to be very serious.

MR. TUPPER is about to issue a small but elegant impression of his "Proverbial Philosophy," to be termed the "Bijon Edition." This edition will complete the two hundredth thousand printed of this work; and it will be dedicated, by permission, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE POLICE of STOCKPORT have commenced a raid upon the dogs found at large. The animals are either destroyed at once or their owners summoned.

THE FIRST VOLUME of the "Memoirs of Maximilian I., Emperor of Mexico," has just appeared at Leipzig. It contains an account of a tour made through Italy in the year 1851.

AN EPITAPH on a tombstone in East Tennessee concludes as follows:—"She lived a life of virtue, and died of cholera morbus, caused by eating green fruit in the full hope of a blessed immortality, at the early age of twenty-one years, seven months, and sixteen days. Reader, go thou and do likewise."

THE HEALTH of MR. ROEBUCK, M.P., is in a very unsatisfactory state. The hon. and learned gentleman, having been requested to attend a meeting at Sheffield, has written in reply stating that he is so unwell that he cannot travel.

A PEABODY FUND is being raised in London, out of which it is proposed to erect a statue to the princely benefactor of the poor of the metropolis, and to establish some other perpetual memorial of his munificence.

PRUSSIA, it appears, is making an attempt to win over Russia to her side by a proposal of marriage between the Prince of Hohenzollern (the father of Prince Charles) and the Princess Eugenie of Leuchtenberg. It is thought that the proposal will not be accepted by the Czar.

BY THE SUBSTITUTION of an "I" for an "L," an American newspaper paragraph was made to say that the Rev. Mr. — had received a call from Maine to be settled over a congregational church in Portland, with a salary of 3000 dols.

A MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCE is arranged to take place between the Earl of Brecknock, eldest son of Marquis Camden, and Lady Clementine Churchill, youngest sister of the present Duke of Marlborough. A marriage is also on the tapis between Lady Alice Hill, daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of Downshire, and Mr. Algernon W. Peyton, of the 1st Life Guards.

THE JUNIOR LORDSHIP of the TREASURY, vacant by the appointment of Mr. Huggess to be Under-Secretary for the Home Department, and the resignation of Colonel White, have been filled by Mr. Bonham Carter, member for Winchester, and Mr. John Esmonde, member for Waterford.

THE SPANISH MINISTER for FOREIGN AFFAIRS has stated to the Cortes that he had informed the foreign Governments that Spain would have recourse to every kind of hostility against Chili to avenge the blood already shed. If the American Republics continued the war with Spain, she would continue to act with energy against them.

LORD BROUGHAM has arrived in London from Cannes. He is in excellent health, and capable of bodily exertion quite extraordinary at his advanced age. For instance, he left Cannes in the afternoon, after an early dinner, travelled all night and the next day, arrived in Paris in the evening, then, after a rapid toilet, went to a soirée to meet some of his French scientific friends, not retiring to rest until nearly midnight.

THE CHOLERA has broken out on board an emigrant-ship at Antwerp. When the disease appeared there were on board 339 adult emigrants, besides children. The ship has been placed in quarantine at Doel, and the passengers not yet attacked have been transferred to the fort.

A BILL for the PROTECTION of COPYRIGHT now before the French Chamber is intended to give to the heirs of an author a kind of royalty upon future editions, in the shape of a small tax to be imposed upon works which upon the expiration of the ten years' privilege of the present law, shall have become the property of the public.

A PHOTOGRAPH of FERDINAND BLIND is exhibited in all the shop windows of Stuttgart, wreathed with immortelles, and the people loudly declare him to be a second William Tell. The Landwehr men of Sigmaringen who are called out for service in the Prussian army kissed the portrait when marching through the streets, and gave enthusiastic cheers.

THE FORMATION of a BODY of POLISH VOLUNTEERS, as proposed by the Kaiser, has been protested against by General Mieroslowski and the Democratic party among the emigrants. In Galicia flying sheets and pamphlets dissuading people from entering the legion are being secretly distributed.

M. GRIESS has discovered a new source of magnetic iron in the shavings of iron and steel, and especially the long spirals produced in turning on the lathe, which are highly magnetic, especially in the case of soft iron. This magnetism is permanent, and M. Griess has observed that the south pole is always at the end which is first touched by the tool.

CUCKOOS, a bird which "brings us good tidings," have assembled on the Surrey hills in extraordinarily large numbers, and their welcome notes are heard for many miles. It is unusual for large flights of cuckoos to remain together after arriving from winter quarters; but some naturalists ascribe cohesion of the swarm on the Surrey hills to the cold easterly winds, and think that a few sunny days would separate and disperse them over the country.

M. THOME DE GAMOND has revived his project for constructing a submarine railway tunnel between England and France. He has modified his plans so far as to suppress the costly artificial islands which were to contain air shafts. Four galleries are to be pierced, the longest of which will not exceed ten kilometres, or six miles. The plans in relief of this extraordinary enterprise will be shown at the Great International Exhibition of 1867.

THE BENCHERS of LINCOLN'S INN have admitted Mr. Benjamin, late Secretary to the Treasury in the Confederate States, without obliging him to eat his terms. They say they are compelled to accept him in exchange for Mr. Edwin James, who was admitted in the same way to the New York Bar—an odd compliment to Mr. Benjamin; but there seems little doubt his admission was smoothed by the strong Confederate sympathies of the English Bar.



SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1866.

THE CONFERENCE.

THE present relations between Austria and Prussia have been well set forth in a sketch published by a paper called by our contemporaries the "Vienna Charivari," which we never before heard of, and which we do not believe to exist. One of the satirical journals, however, published in Vienna has explained, with a humour not quite opportune, that Austria and Prussia can neither of them commence war, because there is no *casus belli*; that they cannot make peace, because there has been no war; that they cannot disarm, because, by their own account, they have not armed; that they cannot nego-

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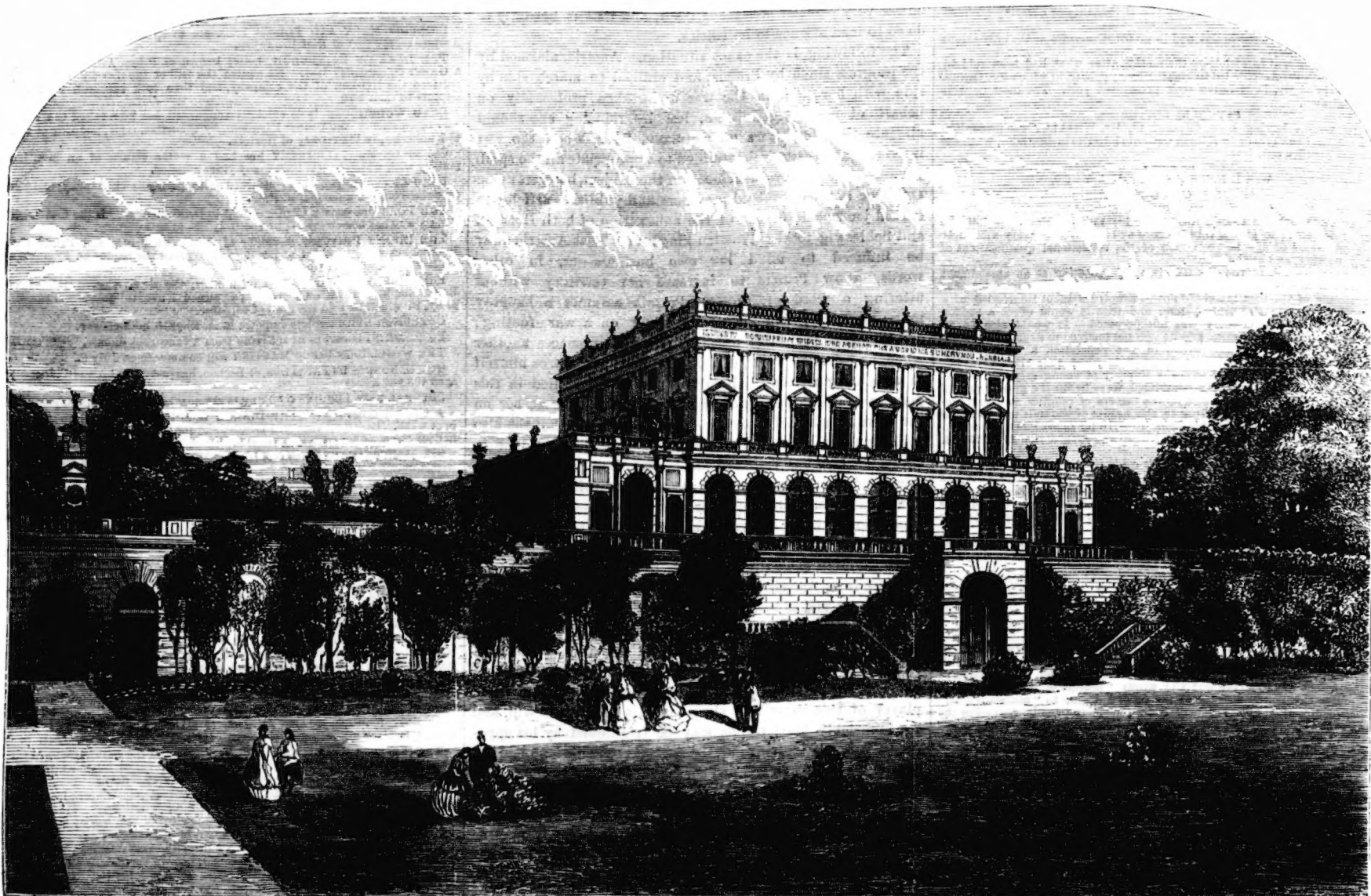
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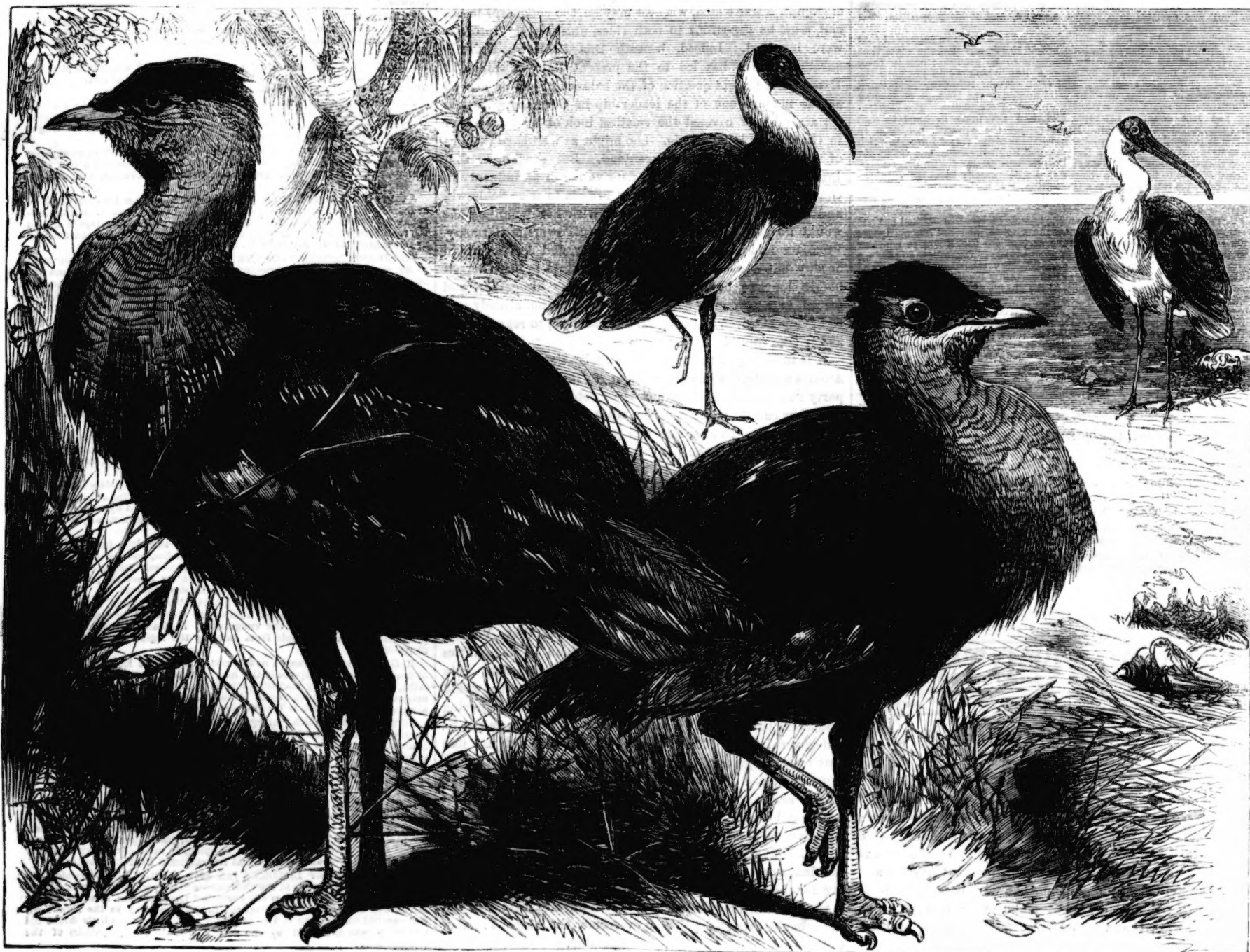
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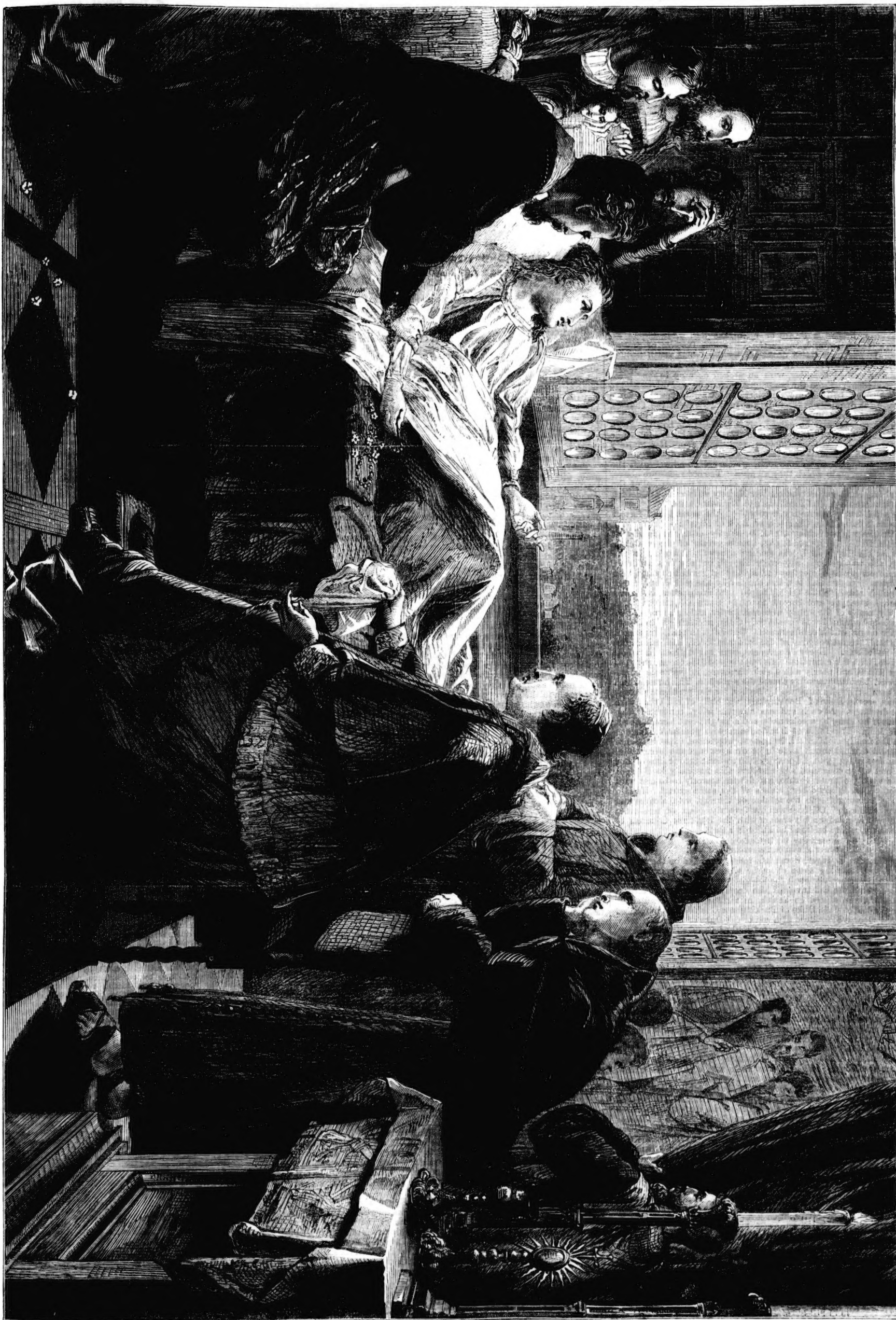
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CLIEFDEN HOUSE, NEAR MAIDENHEAD, THE MANSION OF THE DOWAGER DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND.



BUSTARDS AND IBISES FROM AUSTRALIA LATELY ADDED TO THE COLLECTION IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.



"THE DEATH OF RAFFAELLI"—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY O'NEIL, IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY'S EXHIBITION.)

CLIFDEN HOUSE.

HER Majesty is now staying at Clifden House, near Maidenhead, the residence of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland, where her Majesty is attended by her own servants. Few of the country palaces of our nobility can vie with Clifden for the loveliness of its situation and the beauty of the surrounding scenery. The present mansion, a stately edifice, consisting of a central block, with two wings, inclosing a courtyard, and in the Italian style of architecture, was erected by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland in 1851 from the designs of Sir Charles Barry, an inscription to that effect running round the upper portion of the four sides of the central building. The inclosed courtyard faces the north, while opposite the entrance is a broad and handsome drive lined on each side with stately elm and other trees, and terminating in a dense mass of shrubbery. Originally, there is no doubt, this was the grand entrance. The house is, however, now approached from Burnham-road. From this a winding carriage drive, hedged with laurels, shrubs, and trees, leads to the house through what gardeners call the "wilderness," but which at the present moment is a perfect Eden, thronged with nightingales, blackbirds, and thrushes in full song, and enjoying an atmosphere loaded with perfume from the wild narcissus and myriads of spring flowers, which here abound. On the north-west of the house are the kitchen-garden and stables, and close to these is a handsome Italian campanile, 100 ft. high, the upper balcony being reached by a spiral staircase. It is not, however, till the visitor passes through the mansion to the south front that the beauty of the site can be appreciated. In front of the terrace lies the great flower-garden, a broad and slightly sunk expanse of turf, with flower-beds in the French style. These are backed on the east and west by trees, the continuous foliage of which forms an extensive vista, stretching away down the slope of the hill upon which Clifden is perched to the Thames, the river being seen winding among the meadows and trees in the direction of Maidenhead. The Clifden "great flower-garden" is famous for its spring and winter flowers, and the disposal of these in serpentine ribbons along the base of the south terrace by the Duchess's gardener, Mr. J. Fleming, is highly ingenious. Clifden House, erected by Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, was successively used as a residence by the Earl of Orkney, Frederick Prince of Wales, the Earl of Inchiquin, Sir George Warrander, and, finally, the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland. It has been twice destroyed by fire. The south terrace, already mentioned, is 443 ft. long, and beneath it, in the centre, is a circular vaulted chamber, with an arched opening to the "great flower-garden." From the house numerous walks and drives lead to the "Alcove," bowling-green, apiary, and Clifden springs; while through the openings in the foliage beautiful views of the Thames, Cookham and its ancient wooden bridge, Maidenhead, and the adjacent country can be gained. Not far from the bowling-green is "Garibaldi's Oak;" it was planted shortly after his arrival, while the General was visiting Clifden, two years ago. Her Majesty occupies the central portion of the mansion, the drawing-room, library, dining-room, and boudoir, which are on a level with the south terrace, on to which they all open. The bed-rooms are above. The east and west wings have been placed at the disposal of the Royal household and domestics. Her Majesty will remain at Clifden for about ten days, and then return to Windsor Castle.

The following interesting account of the present and former mansion is taken from Chambers's "Book of Days":—

"On the night of May 20, 1795, shortly after the family at Clifden House had retired to rest, a maid-servant of the establishment, as she lay in bed, was reading a novel. Absorbed in the story, she was perhaps supremely happy; but she was suddenly roused from her enjoyment by perceiving that her bed-curtains were in flames. Too terrified to alarm the family, she sank down in her bed and fainted. While she lay helpless and unconscious the flames gathered strength and spread to other parts of the building. Happily, many of the family were still awake, and in a few minutes the whole household was in motion. Such, according to tradition, was the origin of the conflagration. Certain it is that, however it originated, the fire occurred at the date mentioned, and calamitous were its effects. Every life, indeed, was saved; but the whole mansion, with the exception of its two wings and the terrace, perished in the flames, and nearly all its rich furniture, its valuable paintings, and beautiful tapestry shared the same fate. This house, which had been originally designed by Archer, for the profligate George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, was built of red brick, with stone dressings. At each end was a square wing, connected with the main building by a colonnade and a magnificent terrace, about 440 ft. long. The Duke of Buckingham, who purchased Clifden from the family of Manfred, its ancient proprietors, expended large sums and evinced much taste in its arrangements and decoration. Regardless of expense, he procured the choicest productions of our own and other countries, and enriched this naturally lovely spot with a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers scarcely to be met with at that period in any other grounds of the same extent. He also adorned it, according to the fashion of the day, with alcoves and similar buildings. Clifden was his favourite place of residence; and here he carried on his amours with the infamous Countess of Shrewsbury, whose husband he killed in a duel.

Gallant and gay, in Clifden's proud alcove,
The tower of wanton Shrewsbury and love!

His gallantries, however, were often rudely curtailed by the want of money, and from the same cause, he was unable to complete the mansion here; for, although the inheritor of immense property, his lavish expenditure had involved him deeply in debt, and he died in middle life, self-ruined in health, in fortune, and in reputation. After the death of the Duke of Buckingham Clifden was purchased by Lord George Hamilton, fifth son of the Duke of Hamilton, who, for his military services, was created Earl of Orkney. At considerable cost he completed the house, and added new beauties to the grounds. He died in 1787, and, leaving no surviving male issue, his eldest daughter, Anne, became Countess of Orkney, and succeeded to the Clifden estate. While in her possession it was rented by his Royal Highness Frederick, Prince of Wales, who for many years made it his summer residence. . . . An especial patron of the arts, sciences, and literature, Clifden, as his residence, became the resort of the *litterati* of the day, among whom Thomson and Mallett are still memorable in connection with it. Mallett first received the Prince's patronage, and was made his under-secretary, with a salary of £200 a year. Thomson's introduction to the Prince, as described by Johnson, is amusing.

"The author of the 'Castle of Indolence' appears to have been by no means diligent himself. His muse was a lazy jade, except under the sharp spur of necessity, and Thomson, having received a comfortable appointment under Government, indulged his love of ease and good living, paying little or no attention to his poetical mistress. But a change of Ministry threw him out of his lucrative post, his finances were soon exhausted, and he lapsed into his former indolence. While in this condition he was introduced to the Prince, and, 'being gaily interrogated,' says Johnson, 'about the state of his affairs, he replied they were in a more poetical posture than formerly.' He was then allowed a pension of £100 a year; but this being inadequate to his now luxurious habits, he began again to court his muse, and several dramatic productions were the result. One of them was a masque entitled 'Alfred,' which he and Mallett, in conjunction, composed for the Prince of Wales, before whom it was performed for the first time, in 1740, at Clifden. One of the songs in that masque was 'Rule Britannia.' The masque is forgotten; the author of the song and they who first heard its thrilling burst from the orchestra are mouldering in their tombs; but the enthusiasm which the strain resounded have long since perished, but the enthusiasm then awakened still vibrates in the British heart to the sound of those words,

Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the waves,
For Britons never, never shall be slaves!

"Clifden House," after the fire in 1795, remained nearly as the flames left it till 1830, when it was rebuilt by Sir George Warrander.

Clifden was purchased from his trustees by the Duke of Sutherland, and within a few months after his purchase it was again burnt down, on the 15th of November, 1849, being the day of the thanksgiving for the cessation of the cholera. In the summer of 1850 the mansion was rebuilt by the Duke of Sutherland in a still more magnificent style, from designs by Barry. The centre portion, which is a revival of the design for old Somerset House, now extends to the wings, which, together with the terrace, are made to harmonise with the new building. It is indeed a magnificent and imposing structure, though by those who prefer the more picturesque appearance of the Tudor style it may be considered heavy and formal. The grounds of Clifden, which are about 136 acres in extent, are its chief attraction. They have often been celebrated in prose and verse. It is to Clifden, says a modern writer, that the river here owes its chief loveliness; and whether we view the valley of the Thames from it, or float leisurely along the stream and regard it as the principal object, we shall alike find enough to delight the eye and kindle the imagination. Clifden runs along the summit of a lofty ridge which overhangs the river. The outline of this ridge is broken in the most agreeable way. The steep bank is clothed with luxuriant foliage, forming a hanging wood of great beauty, or in parts bare, so as to increase the gracefulness of the foliage by the contrast; and the whole bank has run into easy flowing curves at the bidding of the noble stream which washes its base. A few islands deck this part of the river, and occasionally little tongues of land run out into it, or a tree overhangs it, helping to give vigour to the foreground of the rich landscape. In the early morning, when the sun—risen just high enough to illumine the summit of the ridge and the highest trees, and all the lower parts rests a heavy mass of shadow on the sleeping river, the scene is one of extraordinary grandeur."

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

THE AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD.

THE bustard, which has now become almost extinct in Europe, has recently been discovered in Australia, and specimens from that country have just been added to the collection in the gardens of the Royal Zoological Society. The Australian bustard differs in few essential particulars, we believe, from the great bustard (*Otiscus tarda*) of European naturalists, so that a description of the one bird may be taken as generally true of the other. Mr. Robert Mudie describes the bustard as a really splendid bird. The male, when full grown, is 4 ft. in length, and 9 ft. in the extent of the wings; and the weight is from 25 lb. to 30 lb. The bill is greyish; but the eyes, which are not feathered quite down to the tarsus, are black; and the three toes are all turned forward, but with an elastic pad at the heel. The hinder toe is wanting, as in all running birds, in consequence of which the rest of the foot acts as a complete and free spring, and projects them forward without any pause or interruption, so that they acquire a momentum, and by that means run fast with comparatively little exertion.

The plumage is strongly marked. The head is of an ashen-grey, with the exception of a black streak along the middle. The feathers on the chin are long and wiry, and at the base of the lower mandible form a tuft on each side, which hangs 8 in. or 9 in. down the neck. These feathers in some attitudes conceal, and in others disclose, naked spots of a violet colour on the sides of the neck. The lower part of the neck passes into a fine reddish orange, which is also the prevailing ground colour on the upper part of the bird, but lighter on the scapulars, and inclining to grey on the lesser wing coverts; and there is a tuft of down at the articulation of the neck inclining to grey. The greater coverts and part of the secondaries are bluish, and the primary quills brownish black with white shafts. The tail feathers are white toward their bases, and generally also at the tips; but the other parts are brown with black lines, which form a regular band across all the feathers. The tail feathers can be spread out like a fan. All the upper part of the body is finely barred and spotted with black, the lines in general crescent-shaped, and sometimes with a narrow line of the same colour running parallel to their convex side, or side next the point of the feathers. On the fore part of the neck, and having its opening under the tongue, there is a membranous bag or pouch, capable of containing about half a gallon, and covered externally with a bluish-black naked skin, of nearly the same colour as the legs. The use of that pouch in the economy of the bird is not very well known.

The tarsi of the male bustard are about 6 in. in length, and the other part of the legs are nearly 1 ft., so that, when the bird stands up for observation or on the watch its total height is about 4 ft. Its walking gait is erect and stately, and its running pace, in which it lowers the head and partially rows with the wings, is exceedingly swift. The female is not above half the size of the male, wants the wiry moustaches and pouch, has the grey on the head and upper part of the neck darker, the upper part more uniformly mottled, and the mottling continued to the tail, which is less produced than in the other sex, and without the regular black bar.

Like most of the gallinaceous birds, the bustard makes no nest, but drops her eggs on the bare ground. These are only two in number, produced rather early in the season and requiring four weeks' incubation. The young are of a pale yellowish brown, mottled with darker and black, and follow their parent as soon as they break the shell. The female sits close during her incubation, and cannot be raised without difficulty; the young ones also squat close down upon the ground on the appearance of danger.

Independently altogether of its size and the quality of its flesh, which is highly prized, the bustard is a very interesting bird. But, unfortunately, it is one of which the recorded history is exceedingly fabulous, and it is now so rare, that it is not easy to correct the errors and supply the defects.

THE AUSTRALIAN IBIS.

The ibis is a genus of birds which, in their general habits and conformation, closely approach the storks. They chiefly inhabit warm countries, but, except in very cold regions, they are to be found in all parts of the world. Generic characters—beak arched, long, slender, thick at the base, and quadrangular-rounded at the tip, which is obtuse; nostrils linear, extending from the roof to the tip of the beak, and dividing it into three portions, of which the upper is the broadest, and flattened; head and throat bare; legs long and four-toed, the front webbed at their base as far as the first joint, the hind toe very long, all provided with claws. They frequent the borders of rivers and lakes, feeding on insects, worms, molluscs, and occasionally on vegetable matter. They perform powerful and elevated flights, extending their neck and legs, and uttering a hoarse cry.

The glossy ibis (*Ibis falcinellus*) is nearly 2 ft. in length. In the adult bird, the neck, breast, top of the back, and all the inferior parts of the body are of a bright red chestnut; the wing-coverts, quills, tail feathers, and the rest of the back of a dusky green, glossed with bronze and purple; but it varies much in its plumage at different ages. This species builds in Asia, and is found on the streams and lakes in flocks of thirty or forty. They migrate periodically to Egypt; and in their passage they are numerous in Poland, Hungary, Turkey, and the Grecian Archipelago. They occasionally visit the banks of the Danube, Switzerland, and, more rarely, England and Holland.

The white ibis (*Ibis religiosa*) arrives in Egypt about the time that the inundation of the Nile commences, its numbers increasing or diminishing with the increase or diminution of the waters; and it migrates about the end of June, at which time it is first noticed in Ethiopia. This species does not collect in large flocks, more than eight or ten seldom being seen together. They are about the size of a fowl; the head and neck bare, the body white; the primaries of the wings tipped with shining, ashy black, among which the white forms oblique notches; the secondaries bright black, glossed with green and violet; the quill feathers of the tail white. This and the above described were the two species of birds adored by the ancient Egyptians, who used to rear them in their temples, and after death

embalm them. Their mummies are found to this day in numbers in the vast catacombs of ancient Memphis.

The specimens of this bird which are depicted in our Engraving have also recently been sent to the society's collection from Australia.

MR. O'NEIL'S "DEATH OF RAFFAELE," IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

WE present our readers this week with an Engraving of one of the pictures which attract the largest numbers of visitors to the Royal Academy this year. It is, indeed, one of the best things that even so popular an artist as Mr. O'Neil has painted.

The great painter lies extended on a couch placed at an open window that looks over Rome. The casements have been flung wide and the curtains are withdrawn, that the dying man may see once more the glory of sunset, and feel, for the last time, the cool breath of evening upon his cheek. Around him are gathered friends and attendants, who watch his gradual decline with tender solicitude. In front of the couch is seated the worthy Cardinal to whose niece Raffaele was betrothed; behind him stand two monks, watching with deep interest the expression of the dying painter's face. An intimate friend, to whom Raffaele appears to be addressing some expression of half regret at the beauty of the world he is leaving, presses the wasted arm of his friend for an answer which he cannot convey in words.

A few wild flowers, plucked by a kindly hand, lie withering by the withering form of the great artist, who, though he painted so admirably the scenes of the heaven for which he is departing, yet appreciated, as such a refined spirit could do, the graces and beauties of the world which is rapidly being withdrawn from his view.

As life dies out in the sick man gazing his last on the loveliness of earth, the evening rapidly darkens into night. One last gleam of sun touches a white building on the summit of the distant hill. Beneath, the dim twilight deepens; overhead, the violet of the sky grows more intense, and ere long the silver stars will shimmer out. But, before the first star appears in heaven, a bright star will have set upon earth, and the soul of Raffaele will be released from its prison.

Mr. O'Neil has treated his subject with great skill and a complete mastery of harmony of colour. If there be any fault to find with his picture, it is that he should have made Raffaele so young and feminine-looking. The early pictures of the great painter do, certainly, convey this impression; but, it should be remembered, he was thirty-seven when he died, and that in his latest portrait, painted by himself, he is represented with the manly honours of a beard. Mr. O'Neil, however, probably thought it better to adhere to the best-known portrait—that of the artist in his youth.

THE CROPS IN CORNWALL.—There is promise of an abundance of hay, the crop looking particularly well throughout the county. Wheat is doing very well, and has been immensely benefited by the recent mild showers. Oats and barley cannot be reported so favourably; still they have made considerable improvement during the past few days. Potatoes, generally speaking, are turning out very middling.

AMONGST THE INGENUOUS CONTRIVANCES in the late Horticultural Exhibition there were one or two that attracted universal notice, and none more so than the portable ground-vinery of Mr. Wells, by which the growing and ripening of choice grapes is denuded of trouble and difficulty, and artificial heat altogether dispensed with. The vinery, besides being highly effective, is so exceedingly moderate in price, that it will, doubtless, receive general patronage.

NEW LIFE-BOAT.—The National Life-boat Institution has just sent a new life-boat to Wexford. The cost of the boat was liberally contributed by gentlemen connected with the civil service of the Crown through James A. Dow, Esq., and Malcolm Goldsmith, Esq., of the Admiralty, Somerset House. There is another life-boat on this station called the St. Patrick. The outlying sandbanks in the neighbourhood of Wexford are well known to be most dangerous in easterly gales of wind, and some lamentable wrecks have occurred there. The Great Western Railway Company kindly took the new boat, free of charge, to Milford, whence it was taken to its station in tow of a revenue cruiser.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARIES.—A meeting of metropolitan parochial guardians was held, on Friday week, at St. James's Hall, for the purpose of protesting against a scheme for one general hospital, suggested by the Association for the Amelioration of the Infirmaries of the Metropolitan Workhouses. A resolution, to the effect "that the removal of paupers from the control of parochial management, and placing them under a central or imperial authority, would be subversive of the principles of local self-government, and that the collecting together of such paupers in large hospitals would not be conducive either to the cure or the well-being of the inmates" was discussed at considerable length. Many of the guardians of the East-End workhouses admitted that there was great room for improvement; and it was contended that the association did not contemplate the subversion of local control. The motion, however, was adopted by a large majority.

DISAPPEARANCE OF CHOLERA FROM LIVERPOOL.—Between 600 and 700 of the Helvetia's German and Irish passengers, who had re-embarked from the workhouse and depots at Birkenhead, and the warehouse, Bankhall, Liverpool, were inspected, on Tuesday, previously to the vessel again starting on her voyage to New York. With the exception of a few children suffering from infantile diseases, and who, with their parents, bedding, and luggage, were taken ashore, the whole of the passengers were in good health and in high spirits at the prospect of their early departure, after the delays and perils of the past month. The National Steam-ship Company have supplied fresh beds and bedding throughout, which has given satisfaction to most of the emigrants, though some of the foreigners complain of the loss of their feather-beds, many of which were of the best quality. The remaining batch of convalescent Germans have left the Liverpool workhouse, and not a single case is left upon the books. The town is now reported free from cholera.

NEW MONUMENT IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—On Tuesday the mural monument erected in Westminster Abbey by the Secretary of State for India in Council to the memory of Sir James Outram, who was publicly buried there on March 25, 1863, was uncovered, in the presence of a large concourse of distinguished Indian officers and others. The monument, of white marble, executed by Mr. Noble, consists of a characteristic bust surmounting a tablet, on which is carved, in relief, an historical group of the meeting of Outram, Havelock, and Clyde, at Lucknow; the tablet being supported by figures of a Scindian and a Bheel chief, illustrative of the diplomatic and administrative services of the deceased officer. Beneath is the following inscription:—"To the memory of Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram, Bart., G.C.B., K.S.I., &c., a soldier of the East India Company, who, during a service of forty years, in war and in council, by deeds of bravery and devotion, by an unselfish life, by benevolence never weary of well-doing, sustained the honour of the British nation, won the love of his comrades, and promoted the happiness of the people of India, this monument is erected by the Secretary of State for India in Council. Born January 29, 1803; died March 11, 1863. Interred in this Abbey at the public cost, March 25, 1863." Among those present were the Dean of Westminster, Sir Frederick Currie, Sir George Pollock, Sir Henry Montgomery, Mr. Merivale, Mr. Stansfeld, Captain Eastwick, Sir Erskine Perry, Mr. Arbuthnot, Mr. M'Naghten, Sir R. Vivian, Sir Francis Outram, General Malcolm, General Baker, General Pears, Sir H. Ricketts, General Vincent Eyre, Mr. Kaye, Sir William Coghlin, Sir T. Wilkinson, General Farquharson, Dr. Mouatt, Mr. T. H. Ferguson, Colonel Mant, Mr. Noble, &c. The Secretary of State for India, Lord De Grey and Ripon, having been summoned by her Majesty, was unavoidably absent.

A RUNAWAY KING.—At Munich these trying times have given occasion to a romantic episode. The young King of Bavaria, who, on the premature death of his father, recently succeeded to a throne for which his years and attainments were as yet insufficient, insists that being a Sovereign he may well be allowed the most insignificant of human privileges, and be the master of his own time. In other words, he does not like being troubled with State affairs, which he thinks a bore, but will write poetry, play the piano, and roam about incognito, à la Haroun Al Raschid. Of late he has been more than ever shocked by the evident want of consideration as displayed by his subjects and the Continent at large in giving way to political excitement, and producing historical events, which so sadly interfere with his studying the sonates pathétiques and pastorales of the immortal Beethoven. Last week, on the approach of the terrible day when he would have been obliged to open Parliament in person, he made up his mind he would not be bothered any more, and accordingly disappeared—yes, actually disappeared—to the horror of the Lord Chamberlain, Ministers, and Court, and, as may be imagined, to the no little dismay of his loving mother. After two days' diligent exploration of Munich and its hilly vicinity, he was discovered riding about on the Alps, with a single attendant groom, and no luggage. When found, a petition, signed by the entire Cabinet, was handed to him on the spot, demanding his immediate return, or the Ministers would resign. After a little hesitation his itinerant Majesty yielded, allowing himself to be conducted in state to his palace. At Munich it was said that the trip had been undertaken for the contingent purpose of meeting secretly, on the top of a lonely mountain, his friend Richard Wagner, the noted composer, whose compulsory banishment had caused him so much chagrin.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

UNLESS all the anxieties fail, we are on the eve of events—political events, I mean. Nobody that I meet with believes that this Reform Bill can pass, and the Ministry have nobody to blame but themselves for the difficulties in which they find themselves hopelessly involved. The policy of the Government at first was, as you know, to present to the House this Session the Enfranchisement of the People's Bill alone. It was a wise policy, and, if it had been carried out courageously, and with no faltering, might have been successful. I do not say that it certainly would have been; but if it had been unsuccessful, the Government would have fallen with honour. Unfortunately, Gladstone listened to the voices of insidious charmers, faltered in his purpose, and, as Disraeli well said, changed his front in the face of the enemy. But he did not do even this in a bold, but in a timid, hesitating way. At first he consented to lay upon the table—this and no more—a Bill for the Redistribution of Seats, to be proceeded with next, and not this Session. But, upon being further pressed, by open enemies and pretended friends, he promised to proceed with this bill *pari passu* with the other; and, lastly, he agreed to join the two bills together. Surely never was anything more unstatesmanlike—more impolitic—than this. In the first place, it was a confession of weakness, which is always impolitic; and, in the next place, he has so loaded his ship that it cannot live through the storms which will assail it. But there is more than this. The Redistribution Bill is constructed on a wrong principle; and, moreover, was got up so hastily that it is full of blunders: in short, it is so bad a bill that many of the staunchest friends of reform and the more loyal adherents of the Government would be glad to see the whole question of reform postponed rather than they should be called upon to support the bill. The principle is that no borough shall be disfranchised. But why not? Ought not old decayed and decaying boroughs to be disfranchised? The first Reform Bill disfranchised a host of them. But, granting this principle, the groupings in this bill are something astonishing; and, in saying that it cannot pass, I am not giving merely my own opinion, but the confident opinion of nine out of every ten of the Liberal members that I meet. It is clear, then, I think, that a political crisis is near, and I am not sure that we shall not be in the thick of it before your paper shall get into the hands of your country readers, for it is probable that the division on Captain Hayter's amendment will take place on Saturday morning; and it is, I think, equally probable that the Government will be defeated, or get so narrow a majority that they must throw up their bill and resign or dissolve. They will, of course, have the right to dissolve and appeal to the country upon this reform question. But will they do this? I doubt it. There are many weighty considerations which will, I think, make them pause. Ireland is still under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act; the monetary panic, though subsiding, let us hope, can hardly be said to have passed away; may, indeed, return; and, until we fairly get quit of all danger in this direction, I can hardly think that the Government will think it right to plunge the country into the excitement of a general election. Moreover, there are the threatenings of war on the Continent to be considered. I suspect that the Government will resign. In that case Lord Derby will be sent for. He will refuse to attempt to form a Ministry; and then, after some coquetting, we shall have the old Government back again, with, perhaps, Gladstone as Premier, vice Russell resigned.

The Tories are at their old tricks, and very questionable tricks they are. Sir Rainald Knightley's motion for an instruction to the Committee to consider and provide a remedy for the prevailing bribery and corruption was a mere trick. The Conservatives to a man knew well that what was proposed was simply an impossibility. Time, if we were to sit till November, would be insufficient for the work. But, then, the Reform Bill would be delayed, endangered, and the Government harassed; and hence their zeal for purity of election just now. Their support of Mr. Clay's bill for an educational franchise is another trick. This, however, has not succeeded; for the debate was talked out, and the bill indefinitely postponed. But here is a still worse trick: The Government wished the debate on Hayter's amendment to be continued on Tuesday. Mr. Baillie Cochrane had a notice of motion on the paper for that night, and, pleading its importance, resolutely refused to postpone it; but, when Tuesday night came, his refusal having accomplished his purpose, he rose and postponed his motion. It was on Monday so important that he could not postpone it for a day; it was of so little importance on Tuesday that he postponed it for a week!

Looking through the old "Spectator" the other night, I came upon a passage which made me rub my eyes and wonder for a moment whether I were really awake, for it was a description of the electric telegraph! It is quoted, as will be seen, from a playful essay by a still more ancient author. Famianus Strada, a Jesuit and historical author, died in 1619, and he appears to have narrated a still older tradition, which may have been handed down from the antediluvian period. I annex the passage, which the careful reader, if he will not take my word for the exactitude of the quotation from No. 241, of the "Spectator," dated Dec. 6, 1711, may, if he please, verify for himself:—"Strada, in one of his Prolusions (lib. ii., prol. 6) gives an account of a chimerical correspondence between two friends by the help of a certain loadstone, which had such virtue in it that if it touched two several needles, when one of the needles so touched began to move, the other, though at never so great a distance, moved at the same time and in the same manner. He tells us that the two friends, being each of them possessed of one of these needles, made a kind of dial-plate, inscribing it with the four-and-twenty letters, in the same manner as the hours of the day are marked upon the ordinary dial-plate. They then fixed one of the needles on each of these plates, in such a manner that it could move round without impediment, so as to touch any of the four-and-twenty letters. Upon their separating from one another into distant countries, they agreed to withdraw themselves punctually into their closets at a certain hour of the day, and to converse with one another by means of their invention. Accordingly, when they were some hundred miles asunder, each of them shut himself up in his closet at the time appointed, and immediately cast his eye upon his dial-plate. If he had a mind to write anything to his friend, he directed his needle to every letter that formed the words which he had occasion for, making a little pause at the end of every word or sentence to avoid confusion. The friend, in the meanwhile, saw his own sympathetic needle moving of itself to every letter which that of his correspondent pointed at. By this means they talked together across a whole continent, and conveyed their thoughts to one another in an instant over cities or mountains, seas or deserts." It will be remarked that there is no mention of the telegraphic wires. But it is very strange that the abolition of these same wires, and the taking advantage of the natural conducting power of earth and water, is a plan which has already been proposed more than once, and is, indeed, a problem already receiving serious consideration.

I am sorry I was not able to give, some weeks ago, to the leader of the Adullamites an instance of the drunkenness, venality, profligacy, and ignorance of the working man which would have told admirably in his famous speech—that speech which it was so jolly to make and so very difficult to explain away. My avocation takes me much among one class of working men—the printers; and I happened, the other day, to see in a printing-office a large and, as I thought, extremely superior chromolithograph, handsomely framed. On inquiry, I learned that it was a drawing in crayons, by a working printer. I found it, on examination, to be excessively good, the water (it was a seapiece) being admirably done. This member of the venal, ignorant, &c., working class is a self-taught artist, and employs his leisure in producing pictures, which are raffled in the various printing-offices, the subscription being ridiculously small and the pictures marvellously cheap. Cheap though they be, they are fit ornaments for even a more finely-appointed room than a journeyman printer's parlour. Printers, by-the-way, seem to have an especial aptitude for art, due, perhaps, to their acquired nicety of touch. I was shown, the other day, a temperance broadsheet drawn and engraved by a printer (self-taught to wield both pencil and graver), and was greatly struck by its excellence.

I am glad to see that a committee is likely to examine shortly into the report of Mr. Cox on the injury which is being done to the pictures at South Kensington by bad gas, an unsuitable building, and a faulty system of warming. The Boilers, if they are nothing else, are a capital exhibition and place of amusement for all classes, and especially the poorer on free and late nights. But we must not pay too high a price for such advantages; and, if we are likely to lose our valuable national pictures, the Boilers must be closed, and those who get few holidays must be content—as I am sure they would be rather than that such treasures should suffer—to wait until public opinion grows strong enough to open such places on a Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Frank Vizetelly is about to publish his adventures during four years of warfare in the Southern Confederacy. There will be graphic descriptions of battle-fields, with reminiscences of social and plantation life in the South.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.
[FOURTH NOTICE.]

THE North Room is popularly known as "The Chamber of Horrors." It is not easy to say why; for some of the most notable pictures of the exhibitions of many past years have decorated its walls. It is just possible—and we hazard the conjecture as the only conceivable reason—that the hanging committees have so styled and so intended it; and, if so, the result is their own condemnation, and proves the old adage, that the censure of some people is the highest praise.

In the North Room this year will be found a little gem by Mr. Watson, "The Poisoned Cup" (500), than which no better painted picture is to be found in the whole Academy. Solid in every respect, with a fine subdued tone of colour, and the perfection of drawing, it is one of the most remarkable pictures of the year. In this room, too, is "The Swing" (537), another of those masterly pictures by which Mr. Broughton is rapidly proving his claim to high rank in art. Mr. Houghton, who, like Mr. Watson, has matured his artistic powers by long study as a draughtsman, exhibits a capital group of an old man and some children, entitled "Mending the Jack-in-the-Box." The expression of the faces is happy to a degree, and the colouring pleasant without over-brilliance. A zouave paying demonstrative attentions to a bonne, "None but the Brave deserve the Fair" (521)—a very clever picture indeed—is by Mr. White, who more than fulfils the promise we pointed out in his small canvas of last year. Mr. White has apparently been studying the French school, and in so doing has entirely corrected some minor failings observable in his previous work.

Miss Ellen Edwards has discovered the secret of painting light to perfection. The spark of the glowworm in her "Evening" (493) catches the eye from any part of the room with intense reality. The drawing of the figure is graceful, and the colour excellent. Mr. Lidderdale shows a great advance in his rapidly-maturing powers in "The Gipsy Beggar" (513), a truthful and unpretentious study, as good as anything of its class in the exhibition. Mr. Calderon is represented here by "In the Pyrenees" (468), a peasant girl twisting a yarn while she drives her turkeys to market. It is rich in colour and bold in handling. Mr. Nicol's picture in this room—"Missed Him" (605)—is as good as anything he exhibits. The face of the Irishman, ankle-deep in the bog, gazing after the escaped bird with a silly bewilderment, is a delicious study; the painting is as sound and careful as ever. Mr. Marks's "Notary" (565) is a humorous picture of two simple country folk consulting the functionary on the important subject of their union.

Mr. Morten is welcome back to the walls after a long absence, although the hangers have placed him most unfavourably. "Pleading to see the Prisoner" (474) is boldly and broadly painted, and well composed. The wife of an imprisoned Loyalist is entreating the young Puritan sentry to allow her an interview with his charge. Her Abigail, between whom and the hawkback in buff jerkin and steel cap some love-passages are, we conjecture, to be presupposed, backs up her mistress with a speaking look, and the lad's stern countenance is relaxing.

Two pictures by Mr. Gale establish him still more firmly in his high place among our painters. "The Offering for the First-born" (522) is one of the richly-painted Eastern subjects for which he is famous. "Nearing Home" (548) is a poetic rendering of a homely English incident—an old labourer returning from work at the close of day and passing an open grave, which he regards with a quiet and meditative glance. Mr. Martineau so seldom exhibits that we could wish his contribution were something as large as his well-known "Last Day in the Old Home;" but there are fine qualities in the single head, "The Young Princess with her Golden Ball" (482). Mr. Armitage displays his knowledge of drawing and quiet but effective colouring in "The Parents of Christ Seeking Him" (503); and Mr. Herbert, jun., shows increasing power in his two works, "Fugitives Overtaken" (512) and "Outskirts of a Sandstorm" (595), both Eastern subjects, the latter with a great deal of observation and local truth. Mr. Rankley gives us, in "Tis Home Where the Heart is" (477), another gipsy subject. Although he paints it with great felicity, it would, perhaps, have been wiser to select a different class of subject for fear of cramping his powers, which are undoubtedly considerable. Mr. Hodgson's "A Jew's Daughter Accused of Witchcraft" (574) shows that he is mastering the flatness of colour which injured the effect of some of his earlier pictures; and Mr. Barwell, in "The Missing Document" (592), shakes off much of the blackness which too often detracts from his work.

There are few pictures in the exhibition so felicitous in arrangement or so meritorious in colouring as Mr. Archer's "Buying an Indulgence" (580), which tells admirably "the story of a certain German Count who robbed Tetzlaff after buying an indulgence for a sin he intended to commit." The Count's expression is a sheer marvel, and even Tetzlaff's mule does not appear to be too great a donkey to appreciate the excellence of the joke. Mr. Houston's "Foragers' Bivouac" (507), Mr. A. W. Cooper's "Arbour" (560), and Mr. Wyburd's "Lady Jane Grey" (562) are all well deserving of more lengthy notice than our space permits; and Mr. Johnston's "Mary of Scotland at Inchemachame" (473) is another picture that claims for the North Room a reversal of the old title. Mr. Simeon Solomon still affects the Burne-Jones school, and so destroys his "Damon and Aglae" (555), which would else be a very fine work. Mr. Egley gives us too much blackness and heaviness in a not very happy rendering (469) of Mr. Shirley Brooks's touching sentiment; and Mr. Wynfield, pleasant enough in colour in his "Ann Boleyn" (517), makes his figures too wooden and uninteresting. Mr. Crowe's "Competitive Examination" (603) is a most lamentable failure to paint a most commonplace subject. It is difficult to guess why the hangers accepted it, unless it were to prove that an artist could paint badly without having R.A. to his name. Mr. Hart's "Introduction of Raffaele to Pope Julius III." (593) might have made room for something better, and certainly could not have made room for anything worse. The proportion of the feet and legs in Raffaele's figure would disgrace a schoolboy after his first quarter's drawing, and the eyes are so ill-directed that no one person in the picture is looking at another. The idea, too, of making one of the Cardinals about to bonnet his Holiness is unworthy of the painter!

In landscape, the North Room boasts an exquisite view of "Capri" (479), by Mr. Brett. The evening is closing in, and the foreground is bathed in dim twilight, though the sunset glory still lingers on the distant heights. The sea is painted with loving care and the light is admirably rendered. "A Fine Day in Autumn" (573), by Mr. Leader, also graces this room. It is a truly marvellous work—full of real sunlight and with a finely-painted foreground, with a stretch of glittering water and some tender distance beyond. Mr. Leader stands unrivalled as the chronicler of thoroughly English scenery. Mr. Mason's "Anglers" (492) is a clever work—free from the faults into which over-praise seemed threatening to lead him. Mr. Oakes shows great skill in his "Morning at Augera" (515), with a

flood of dawnlight over the whole scene; and Mr. Robinson displays sound qualities in his faithful view of "Quirang, Skye" (463). Mr. Dillon's "Santa Maria della Salute" (531), Mr. W. Paton's "Dell Without a Name" (498), Mr. I. L. Thomas's "Abinger" (556), and Mr. F. Walton's "Medmenham" (528), and especially his "Sedgy Lake" (594), are all excellent works of art, on which, did our limits allow, we would fain enlarge. Mr. Creswick's "Kynance Cove" (509) and Miss Blunden's "Marsden Rocks" (579) are admirable coast-scenes. The foliage in Mr. J. T. Linnell's otherwise unreal "Morning Mist" (511) is truthfully and vividly rendered. Mr. Lee's "Stromboli" (606) should be described, not "as it appeared," but "as it did not appear," in December, 1864; for we feel sure Nature was never guilty of such a sea or sky, to say nothing more.

Two marine subjects by Mr. C. E. Johnson, "A Hastings Ferry-boat" (470) and "Smugglers" (538), show a great knowledge of the play of light and translucency in the wave; and Mr. Vallance exhibits a careful study of wave-form in his "Break, break, break" (536). Mr. Cooke's "Marine Stores" (497), and Mr. Danby's "Mount Orgueil" (483) are good specimens of the powers of their respective painters. "Drawing Timber in Picardy" (582) shows to advantage in a new class of subject Mr. Beavis's skill in many points—most especially in his anatomical correctness as regards his horses.

Mr. Goddard's "Casuals" (516) contains some clever studies of dogs, but is, on the whole, a little unsatisfactory, considering its size. "Rescued from the Wolf" (504) is a spirited and effective picture, somewhat in Mr. Andsell's style, by Mr. Carter. Mr. Downard exhibits some well-painted sheep in "Eventide" (546), and Mr. Corbould is thoroughly successful in his "Brigade Field Day" (542), in which he has made more than might have been expected of a review of the household cavalry. Mr. Raven, whose misty moonlight in the first room we noticed with such pleasure, exhibits here a picture of a blackbird sitting on a spray of apple-blossom with a clear blue sky behind, entitled "A Voice of Joy and Gladness" (499), which proves that he possesses versatility as well as power. Unless we are much mistaken, we shall hear more of Mr. Raven before long.

Among the portraits the best is that of "Arthur Lewis, Esq." (553), by O'Neill. The worst—it is saying a great deal—is that of "Mr. Dyes" (501), by Mr. Cope. "The Bishop of Exeter" (506), by Mr. Hodges, and "Percy Mitchell," by Miss Osborn, are good of their class; while "Mrs. Cooper" (533), by Mr. Phillip, is a pleasant bit of painting. "F. O. Burnand, Esq." (541), by Mr. Knight, is calculated to give the public an unfavourable impression of burlesque-writers; while Sir F. Grant's "Lady Sophia Pelham" (508) appears to have been painted merely to satisfy the Academicians that he could, if he liked, paint as poorly as any of them. Mr. Thomas's Royal portraits (471, 472) are a little better than Royal portraits ordinarily are.

THE DOWAGER LADY TRURO has, it is said, bequeathed to Princess Mary of Cambridge the whole of her fortune and her house in Eaton-square, which, we believe, will be the future residence of the Prince and Princess.

COUNT DE MOYNIER, who unsuccessfully attempted to found a French settlement in Abyssinia, has just left for Mexico, with a brevet of Captain in the Foreign Legion, and taking with him a number of men placed under his orders and destined to fill up the vacancies in that corps.

A MARRIED WOMAN, subject to disease of the heart, recently died in one of the public baths at Leeds. The body, unidentified, was removed to a neighbouring public-house. A labourer working near went next day, with some others, to look at the body, and to his horror discovered it to be his own wife.

THE POST OFFICE.—In the year 1865 there was in the United Kingdom a post office (including pillar letter-boxes) to every 326 inhabited houses. Upon an average 135 letters were delivered in the year at each inhabited house—twenty-four for each person; again, of course, upon an average. There was a post-office savings-bank to every 1597 inhabited houses; and one person in every fourteen was a depositor either in a post-office savings-bank or in one of the old savings-banks. At the end of the year each of the 611,819 depositors in the post-office savings-banks had, upon an average, £10 13s. 4d. due to him from the bank.

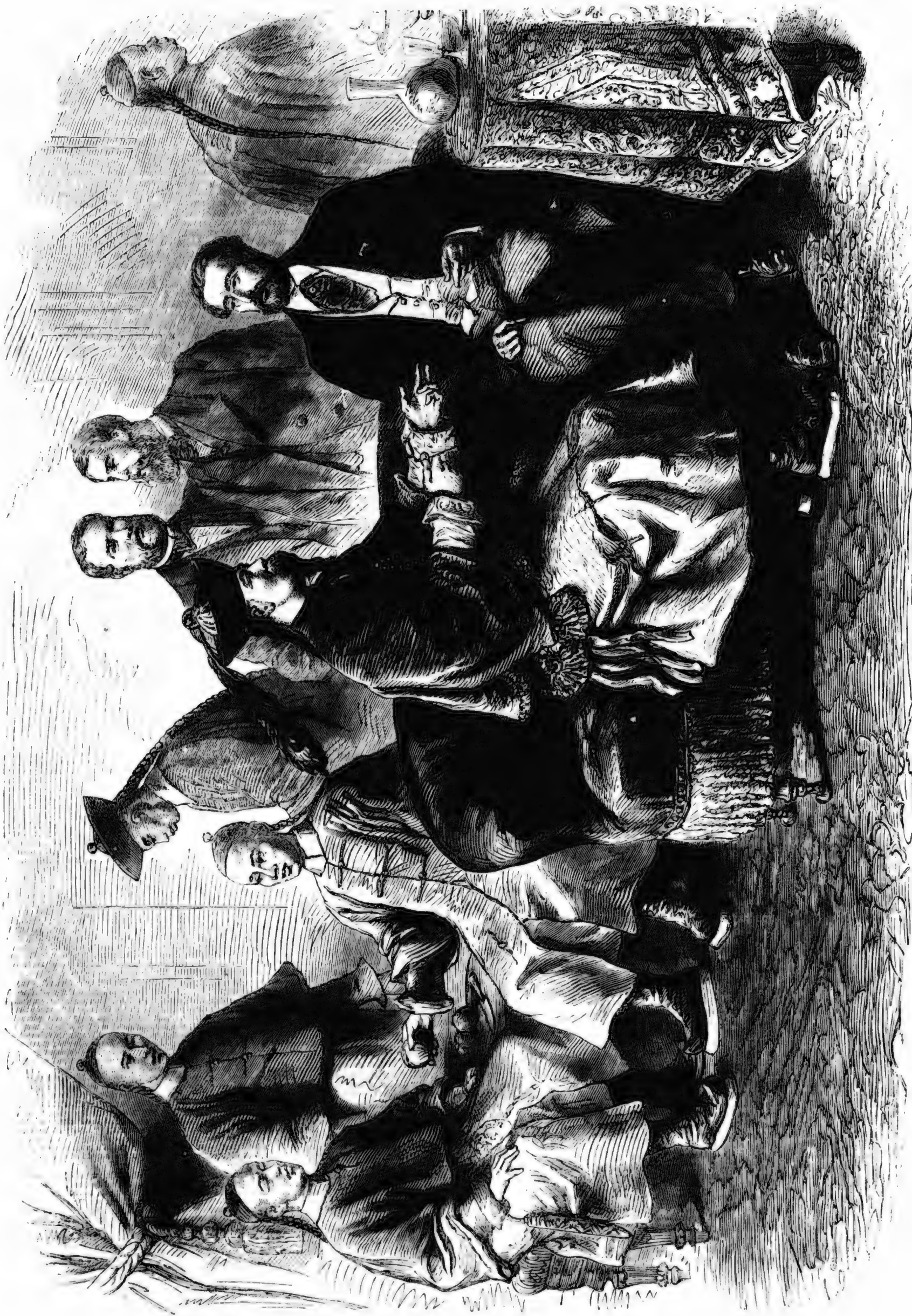
DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN DEVONSHIRE.—A terribly destructive fire took place on Friday night week, at Otery St. Mary, Devonshire, by which 116 houses were entirely destroyed. The extent of the catastrophe is attributable to the violence of the east wind, the prevalence of thatched roofs, and the want of water. The conflagration was confined almost entirely to the dwellings of the poor, and a large number of persons have been deprived of their homes and lost their clothing and furniture. The Vicar makes an appeal to the benevolent on behalf of his distressed parishioners. The origin of the disaster was entirely accidental.

A FATAL JOKE.—A wealthy and respectable citizen, named Lutz, of Cookstown, Pennsylvania, having been absent from home for some time, thought he would surprise his wife by stealing in upon her unawares. He soon discovered that she was absent, and had left the house in charge of a cousin, a boy about sixteen years of age. As Lutz had considerable money in the house, he seems to have conceived the idea of testing the courage and fidelity of the boy. He accordingly entered the house stealthily, but the boy, hearing the noise, gave the alarm, and, calling a companion, begged him to get assistance, as there was a robber in the house. The boy then approached the room where the supposed robber was, challenging him three times to come out or he would shoot him. After the third warning the boy fired, being armed with a navy revolver. Lutz up to this time had not spoken, but as the ball had passed through his body he fell to the floor, exclaiming, "You have killed me, but it was all my fault!" In fifteen minutes he was dead.

THE LATE PRINCE ESTERHAZY.—Prince Paul Esterhazy of Galantha, who died, a few days back, at Ratisbon, was born in 1786. In the first quarter of the century he was acting as Ambassador to Dresden. In concert with the Princes de Metternich and de Schwarzenberg, he contributed to the arrangement of the marriage of Napoleon I. with Maria Louisa. In 1813 the Prince was at Prague, during the time of the Congress; and his sojourn, when the Russian and Prussian envoys met the French agents, had an importance more than equal to that of the regular diplomatic sittings. In 1814, during the Congress of Chatillon, he accepted a secret mission to Napoleon with a view to induce the Emperor to make peace. Afterwards he was Ambassador of Austria at Rome, and acted as representative of that Power at the coronation of Charles X. As Ambassador at London he took a prominent part in the negotiations which brought about the creation of the kingdoms of Greece and Belgium, and he withdrew into private life in 1841. He returned momentarily to affairs in 1848, to occupy the post of Hungarian Minister at the Imperial Court, under the Batthyany Ministry. The last mission of the Prince was to represent Austria, in 1856, at the coronation of the Emperor of Russia, Alexander II.

GOVERNMENT INSURANCES AND ANNUITIES.—The system of granting (through the medium of the post-offices) Government policies of life insurance for not more than £100, and Government life annuities not exceeding £50 a year, appears likely to be very successful. It came into operation at a small number of post-offices on April 16, 1865, has since been generally extended throughout England, and is about to be applied also in Scotland and Ireland. In England, in the first twelvemonth, 809 proposals have been accepted for the insurance of lives to the extent in all of £60,874; the annual premiums payable amounting to £1924, exclusive of eighteen cases in which the premiums were received in a single payment. Five hundred and one of the insurers decided to pay their premiums annually, very few half-yearly, eighty-one quarterly, 181 monthly, three fortnightly. No death occurred in the first year. Sixty-one proposals were declined. In the other branch of business 150 immediate life annuities were granted in the first year; the annual sums granted amounting to £3430 (averaging nearly £23 each); and the purchase-money being £39,774. Eighty deferred annuities were also granted, the annual sums to be paid to the parties amounting to £1660. Most of these annuities were purchased by payments which are to be annual. The nature and advantages of the scheme are becoming more extensively known, and a continually-increasing proportion of the proposals comes from the poorer classes of the community, for whose benefit the measure was intended.

ESSENCE OF ALMONDS.—Mrs. David Caddick, wife of a grocer in Langanham-street, Kirkcaldy, sent for sixpennyworth of essence of almonds, the other day, to flavour custard. No caution was given by the druggist who served the messenger, nor was the bottle labelled "poison." The essence was taken home, and some time afterwards Mrs. Caddick was found in a dying state, the odour of almonds being detected in her expirations. The usual remedies were applied, but she died. At the inquest the druggist said it was not usual to mark essence of almonds "poison," but he told the little girl who came for it not to open it. Dr. Parker said it was not usual to label these bottles "poison." He (Dr. Parker), however, thought they should be labelled, for many persons did not know their dangerous nature. The deceased was said to be very fond of the flavour of essence of almonds. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," the foreman remarking that the jury thought more caution ought to be used in the sale of these essences, and that they ought all to be labelled "poison." The Coroner observed that many of the essences sold for flavouring tarts and confectionery, such as pineapple flavour, although they bore specious names, were really poison, and none of them ought to be sold without having their description fully marked upon them.



THE CHINESE COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR INTERPRETERS IN THEIR HOTEL AT PARIS.



ARRIVAL OF RECRUITS FROM DALMATIA FOR THE AUSTRIAN ARMY IN VENICE.



SOLDIERS OF THE ITALIAN RESERVE ASSEMBLING IN THE CITADEL SQUARE, TURIN.

THE CHINESE COMMISSION IN THEIR RECEPTION-ROOM AT THE GRAND HOTEL, PARIS.

FOR some days past small paragraphs have appeared in the daily papers respecting the Chinese Mission which has recently arrived in Europe; and we are this week able to present our readers with an engraving representing the principal personages of this deputation and their interpreters, as they appear in their reception-room at the hotel where they took up their quarters in Paris.

These Envoys have been sent to Europe by Prince Kung, the Regent of the Celestial Empire, with instructions to visit the capitals of France, England, Belgium, Prussia, Denmark, and Russia, in a non-official character, and there survey mankind with a view as extended as can be obtained under the circumstances.

The chief of the mission is named Pin-Ta-Jin, and is the chief Minister of Foreign Affairs, so that he is, of course, a mandarin of the first class. He appears to be about fifty years of age. His companions are four literati—Kouang-Yug, his son and under-secretary, a young man of twenty-five, who speaks English with tolerable fluency; Tong-I, the laureate of the College of Peking, and distinguished by the rank of the gold button; and Ac-Ming, the heir of a family of great distinction at the Imperial Court. These four evidently belong to the pure Mongol race. Yeu-Hou, the fifth and youngest (for he is scarcely eighteen), offers a type which is nearer to the Indo-Chinese; his physiognomy being lively and *spirituelle*. It is said that he intends to remain some time in a French college to complete his education. The Europeans of the party are the English and French interpreters to whom is intrusted the duty of conducting the foreign guests on their visit, and a secretary who is attached to the mission.

The Chinese were quite the lions of Paris, which has been for some time sadly in want of an extra sensation, and it must be acknowledged that such a decided step on the part of a nation which has till lately regarded all Europeans as barbarians and has refused even to open the gates of the principal cities of its empire, is strangely suggestive of the advances made in the world's history during the present generation.

As the illustrious party have now become our own guests, it may be as well to inform our readers that their cuisine in no way resembles that which has generally been presented to us as being applied to ordinary Chinese diet. The fact is that French cookery has already penetrated as far as Peking, where there are restaurants which would do credit to the Palais Royal, and champagne is a beverage highly appreciated in Celestial circles. One curious custom prevails at these Chinese eating-houses which might be advantageously adopted as some of our own advertising eating-houses. After the repast is finished, the head waiter stations himself at the door and bawls out a list of the prodigious number of dishes that have been consumed by each customer—the chorus of the recitative being the fact that the bill has been duly paid. It is a wonderful spectacle to see a corpulent mandarin rise from the table and march down the room to the sound of this chant and the blows of a tom-tom, proudly listening to the fabulous list of the good things which he is supposed to have absorbed.

His Excellency Pin-Ta-Jin (commissioner), accompanied by Major Brine, R.E., Mr. Bowra (secretary), and M. de Champs (interpreter), are now in London, and on Tuesday paid visits to Earl Russell; the French, American, Prussian, and Swedish Legations; Mrs. Gladstone, and Sir John Bowring. They afterwards visited Professor Owen and the British Museum; and called at Mr. McLean's, the photographer, in the Haymarket. In the evening they attended the performances at the Royal Olympic Theatre.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS IN ITALY.

ARRIVAL OF DALMATIAN RECRUITS AT VENICE.

THE war fever shows no abatement in Austria, and every effort is made to continue the preparations for the threatened emergency in Venetia. Our engraving represents the arrival of recruits from Dalmatia, whence they have been sent to swell the ranks of the army of reserve at Venice. It is these Dalmatians, as well as the Croats and Slavians, who are dreaded by the Prussians; and the inhabitants of the wealthy and highly civilized towns of Germany may well look with some uneasiness at the probability of an incursion by a horde of half-civilized soldiers from the distant provinces of Austria. As Dalmatia is a maritime country, however, its people are superior to their neighbours, although it forms a part of the district including Croatia and Slavonia, and the town and territory of Fiume, formerly a part of the kingdom of Hungary. Dalmatia consists of a long, narrow, mountainous tract, and a number of large islands along the N.E. coast of the Adriatic Sea. Bare hills, rude mountains, and unwholesome marshes form the features of the landscape; and even some of the streams are said to have a petrifying property; but the soil is good, and much of the scenery singularly wild and picturesque. Some of the Dalmatians are fine, muscular-looking fellows, if those now about to serve in Venice are fair samples of the population. Those dwelling on the coast, and some of the principal families of the country, are of Venetian extraction; and those who are of Hungarian origin have adopted the language as well as many of the customs of the Italians. Italian is spoken in the seaports, but the language of the interior is a dialect of Slavonic, which is alone used by the peasants. The Dalmatians are very variously spoken of by travellers who have dwelt amongst them; but, whatever may be their moral qualifications, they are miserably poor, the Dalmatian women being almost broken down by the laborious occupations to which they are condemned. The dress of some of the peasants is almost Turkish, including a fez cap and a brace of huge pistols; and the costume of the women is sometimes very graceful; they wear a short, bright-coloured cloth pelisse, fastened at the waist by a gold or silver clasp, their hair being bound round the head in two thick plaits, interwoven with a gay ribbon. The ordinary dress of the inhabitants of the coast is generally a tight blue suit, over which, in winter, they wear a spencer and a coarse brown coat or cloak.

TROOPS OF THE ITALIAN RESERVE ASSEMBLING AT TURIN.

Whatever may be the result of the proposed congress, the excitement in Italy continues with all its original force, and the Government is continually harassed by difficulties which are sure to arise at such a period. The partisans of the late dukes, archdukes, and Bourbons are, of course, making such efforts as they find possible to make common cause with the foe, and at the same time to instigate a reaction in the interior and southern districts. The enthusiasm of the people, however, is impregnable, and now that it is known that Garibaldi is appointed to the command of his army of volunteers, the national spirit is almost uncontrollable. From all parts men arrive eager to serve under the great General, and Sicily, Naples, Rome, and Venice each furnish additions to his band.

At Turin the military preparations go on with equal activity, and the streets are thronged with soldiers of all branches of the service on their way to join their regiments. The square of the citadel is the general rendezvous of all the military, who arrive there to be formed into companies that they may be sent to their destinations. The larger number are accompanied by members of their families, and, although the patriotic sentiment is strong enough, the farewells at the moment of separation are none the less sorrowful.

In connection with this subject it may be mentioned that a letter from Genoa, of the 24th ult., states that, in consequence of pressing orders from Florence, an army of labourers has been set to work at the walls of the city. Almost all private works are suspended, and all hands are employed in strengthening the existing fortifications, raising new defences on the west of the city at a place called the Cura, behind the large barracks of San Benigno. They are to cover the approaches to the railway, and will unite with other works which will extend to the new mole. At the mouth of the Polcevera, to the east of the city, fortifications are to be erected to protect the naval arsenal of La Foce with their guns. Strong redoubts in the plain of La Strega defend the part of the town, constructed since 1815, beyond the Pila gate, which is outside the regular line of fortifications. The famous walls—famous in the siege

which Masena supported, and which crown the immense amphitheatre of mountains at the foot of which the old city of Genoa is situated, will be shortly covered with formidable artillery. One thousand pieces of cannon may now be reckoned between the fort of the Lantern and Polcevera. The old batteries facing the sea are repaired, and new ones are constructed on every spot which commands the gulf. The old mole is likewise defended with artillery, and guns of the heaviest calibre mounted in the batteries which face the entrance to the port. It has been endeavoured to give a political significance to these military precautions adopted at the last moment. The hope of the arrival of a French force had at first, it is said, caused the fortifications of Genoa to be neglected; but assurances of neutrality having been lately given, the Italian Government considered it prudent to strengthen the defences of Genoa. The writer of the latter adds that the Italians, having made no secret of their desire to make a descent on Trieste, feared that the Austrians might take their revenge at Genoa. The Austrians know that the Italian naval forces are superior to their own, but they might attempt a coup de main on Genoa with the iron-coated squadron stationed at Pola. But even in that case it is asked, are not the batteries on the sea side of Genoa sufficient without erecting such formidable works on the land side?

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE revival of "Don Giovanni"—if a work can be said to be "revived" when it has never lost anything of its original vitality—is an important incident every year in the operatic season. The manner in which this opera is played is a good test of the efficiency of an opera company, and it is one which the "Royal Italian" troop, vocalists and instrumentalists together, can stand better than any in the world. At the Italian Theatre of Paris the stage is too small. At the French opera Mozart's masterpiece is actually disfigured by the introduction of a ballet, which is danced to the tune of one of Mozart's symphonies, as if that mended the matter, and as if the introduction of a regular ballet scene into "Don Giovanni" could be atoned for by turning a movement from one of the composer's symphonies into dance music! At the Royal Italian Opera, however, now that the part of Don Giovanni has been definitively restored to the baritone, the work is played in accordance with the great composer's intentions. It is very effectively put upon the stage, while the execution, by singers and orchestra alike, is absolutely perfect. Two important changes have been made in the cast of "Don Giovanni" since last season. The part of Donna Elvira is now assigned to Mme. Lemmens-Sherrington, that of Don Ottavio to Signor Brignoli. M. Faure, too, reappears as the hero; Ronconi is once more Masetto; Ciampi takes the part of Leporello; Mdle. Frichi that of Donna Anna; Mdle. Adelina Patti that of Zerlina—one of the most charming, and in some respects the most original, of her many delightful impersonations.

The cast of "Dinorah," as now played at Her Majesty's Theatre, is remarkably efficient. The demented Dinorah is represented to perfection by Mdle. de Murka. Nothing could be more charming than Mdle. de Murka's performance in the earlier scenes of the opera. She made a deep impression in the scene of the last act in which Dinorah recovers her reason; but the fantastic portion of the opera is that in which she more particularly distinguishes herself. Her entry with the imaginary goat, her delivery of the beautiful and suggestive "cradle song," her singing in the duet with Corentino the piper—above all, her exquisite performance, both in a vocal and in a dramatic sense, of the shadow scene, in the second act, were thoroughly good and effective points in a representation which was admirable throughout. Mdle. de Murka was enthusiastically applauded after each of her solos, and the audience would gladly have heard her repeat the whole of the air "De l'ombre."

A contemporary calls attention to the fact (already sufficiently well known, we should have thought) that benefit concerts are now so numerous, that to attend any large proportion of them is out of the question. The great subscription concerts, organised by associations and supported by orchestras, are not only, as a rule, much more worthy of notice, but are also much more noticeable, from the simple fact that fewer of them take place. For entertainments, moreover, of this kind there are fixed days, which no one in the habit of attending them is likely to forget. Each Philharmonic concert is an immovable feast, in so far that it must take place on a Monday. Friday is the Sacred Harmonic day; while Wednesday has been seized upon by two societies—the New Philharmonic and the National Choral. At the last New Philharmonic Schumann's overture to "Manfred," Beethoven's "Heroic Symphony," the overture to "Semiramide," and the march from "Egmont" were the instrumental pieces performed. At the New Philharmonic concerts more attention is paid to vocal music than at the concerts of the old society; and for his last entertainment Dr. Wyld had secured the services of Mdle. Titiens and MM. Gardoni and Rokitsansky. The interest of this concert was much increased by the presence of Mdme. Arabella Goddard, who played Mendelssohn's G minor concerto in admirable style.

ASCOT RACES.—The Prince and Princess of Wales with a distinguished suite, went in state on Tuesday to grace the commencement of the Ascot meeting with their presence. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Denmark, and Prince Teck, were of the Royal party. There was a very large attendance, and, as the weather was very pleasant, the summer dresses of the ladies were displayed to great advantage. There were no fewer than eight races, but that which will chiefly interest the general public was the Prince of Wales's Stakes, for which there was a struggle between Lord Lyon and Rustic, the former carrying a penalty of nine pounds, while Rustic only carried three extra. This, it would seem, made all the difference between Lord Lyon and his half-brother, and the latter beat the Derby winner, after a severe contest up the hill, by half a length. Rustic was third for the Derby. The gold vase was won by Mr. Sutton's Eland, with three lengths to spare. The meeting on Wednesday was again favoured with fair weather; and although there were no particular races a large number of spectators attended. On Thursday, the "Cup day," the attendance was on a grander scale than ever before known. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Mary of Cambridge, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Teck, the Prince of Denmark, and other distinguished personages were present. The cup was won by Gladateur—Regalia being second, and Breadalbane third.

THE DUKEDOM OF EDINBURGH.—As the public seems to be in some little doubt as to the history of this title, bestowed on the 24th ult., by her Majesty on her second son, Prince Alfred, it may not be out of place to mention the connection of the Royal family with the peerage in question. His Royal Highness Prince William Henry, son of Frederick Prince of Wales and brother of King George III., was created, on Nov. 10, 1764, Duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh. The latter title was not used, though both were British peerages—the Crown having had no power to create a Scottish peerage since the passing of the Act of Union, on May 1, 1707. The elder Duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh died in 1805, and was succeeded by his son, Prince William Frederick, at whose death, without issue, on Nov. 30, 1844, the two peerages became extinct. The title of Duke of Edinburgh is, therefore, a new creation in favour of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, and will be borne as his first title.

STRIKE OF THE SAILORS IN THE PORT OF LONDON.—The whole of the sailors now in the port of London have struck for an advance of wages, and, unless the shipowners yield, serious inconvenience must arise from the detention of the outward-bound ships. Several hundred sailors, each wearing a blue ribbon, marched through the streets of the City in procession on Saturday afternoon. The men urge the high price of provisions and clothing as a reason for their claiming an increased rate of pay. For ships bound to Australia and round the Cape they demand £3 10s. per month, being an advance of 15s. or £1. Numbers of men were about the shipping-offices on Monday morning, but they declined to sign articles unless at an increased rate; and, the captains refusing, the outward-bound ships are kept in the docks.

ILLNESS OF SIR MINTO FARQUHAR.—It is with sincere regret that we record the serious and sudden illness of Sir Minto Farquhar, one of the members for the borough of Hertford. The hon. Baronet occupied his usual seat in the House of Commons during the early part of the sitting on Monday evening, and was apparently in good health; but, quitting the House about six o'clock for the purpose of visiting the library, on passing through the lobby he fell down in a fit. Colonel Taylor and two or three other members who witnessed the occurrence at once raised him and carried him to Mr. Brand's private room, where the advice and attention of Mr. Clement, M.P. for Shrewsbury, and Dr. Brady, M.P. for Leitham, were at once afforded, and the necessary restoratives applied. These were so successful that at the expiration of about three hours the hon. Baronet was permitted to be removed to his residence in Berkeley-street.

GENERAL PRIM AND MARSHAL O'DONNELL.

UNDER date "Florence, May 3," General Prim, the chief of the late Spanish insurrection, has addressed a characteristic letter to Marshal O'Donnell, his former comrade in the field, the present Prime Minister of Spain. It appears that on the 13th of April, in the Senate at Madrid, O'Donnell declared that "General Prim had not had the courage to show a front; all he achieved was a cowardly flight;" and added that "when a man engaged in such enterprises he ought to know how to die, which Prim did not do, since he fled like a coward." These abusive expressions, unworthy of one holding O'Donnell's high position, could not be more unjustly applied. Prim's cool and daring courage is proverbial in the Spanish army and among all who ever saw him in action. He is not only a good General, but a brilliant man-at-arms, ever seeking opportunities of personal distinction.

"Quien es el gran Paladín?"

sang the soldiers in Morocco, one of a series of doggerels which some military poet had made upon the generals of the army; and the answer was "Prim." More than once has O'Donnell himself been saved from disaster by Prim's personal valour and self-devotion, and by his remarkable qualities as a leader. This was especially the case on the 1st of January, 1860, in the fight near Ceuta, from which Prim takes his title of Marquis Castillejos. On that day, as all who were present know, he did all the fighting, led his repulsed soldiers again and again to the charge, and saved O'Donnell from defeat. In short, to accuse Prim of want of courage, whether moral or physical courage be meant, is simply to attack him on his strongest point. As an exile, however, and perhaps in consideration of the proverb that *les absens ont toujours tort*, Prim has thought it worth while to repel the charge brought against him by O'Donnell, inconsiderately and in a moment of passionate excitement, amid the indignant murmurs of the senators; and his letter includes a curious account of his proceedings from the time he rose in insurrection, at the head of 684 dragoons and a group of officers, down to the date of his entering Portugal at Barrancos, on the 20th of January. He shows that his march of seventeen days' duration, far from being a cowardly flight, was a deliberate and well-executed operation; that for the greater part of that period he was marching and countermarching in order to give time for the insurrection to spread and for others to join him who had pledged themselves to do so, but who failed when the decisive hour struck. A week after the commencement of the movement he was at Urda, only one day's march from his point of departure. On the tenth day he was only two days' march from Madrid. He was pursued by three columns, those of Zabala, Echague, and Serrano, to which was soon after added a fourth, that of General Arizum. He repeatedly halted and passed the night within ten or twelve miles of his pursuers, especially of Zabala, well known for his unreadiness in the Morocco campaign, and who followed him with three battalions of infantry, six squadrons, and eight guns, but who seems to have taken particular care never to overtake him. On Jan. 6, at daybreak, the little group of insurgent cavalry passed within half musket-shot of Daimiel, where one of the pursuing columns had passed the night. Within sight of the town a baggage-cart was overturned. They halted and formed up while it was set right again. The Government troops either did not see them or preferred not risking an encounter.

Finding the insurrection hopeless, owing to the defection of the greater part of those who should have joined it, Prim made for Portugal. Many horses had broken down, and sixty dismounted men accompanied him on foot. Six, who lingered at Logrosan to get their horses shod, were cut off. Those six were all he lost. The day after he entered Portugal he sent back horses, equipments, and arms to Spain. The following extract from the letter to O'Donnell is curious as a summary of the expedition, written by its leader:—

The column under my command, which set out from Villarejo on the 4th of January, reached Portugal on the 20th, and reached it entire, after going over a distance of 742 kilometres, without ever running—always at a walk. It camped out only two nights, and slept quietly in sixteen villages belonging to the provinces of Madrid, Ciudad Real, Toledo, Cáceres, and Badajoz, pursued, the while, by four columns, each one of them stronger than ours—the four being all composed of both cavalry and infantry, and commanded by a Minister of the Crown, by the General of Engineers, by the Captain-General of Estremadura, and by a Major-General. In their favour were the military forces of Estremadura, which were in my front, and consequently saw me coming; against me they also had the powerful auxiliaries of railways, telegraphs, and great rivers—the Tagus, which we twice crossed, and the Guadiana, which we had to ford—to say nothing of the infinity of rivers, ravines, and rugged defiles we had to get over when crossing the mountains of Toledo and Guadalupe. More than once we were fain to make great circuits in order to reach villages in which we could put up to get rations, and especially to find or forge horseshoes. And nevertheless, everything was done as if we had been marching under ordinary circumstances, without a single instance of misbehaviour in the hundred towns and villages we passed through, the men observing the strictest discipline and subordination. In spite of the fatigues consequent on so long a march, pursued on all sides, and well convinced of the fate that awaited us if we fell into your (O'Donnell's) hands, there was not a moment of discouragement; not a man abandoned his General and his comrades; there was not a single desertion. In presence of the facts I have just narrated, and with which you are well acquainted, how could you be so trivial and discourteous as to style my retreat a cowardly flight, regardless of my absence, of my rank in my army, and of the sentence that impends over me? In conclusion, I will tell you what a cowardly flight is, since you evidently do not know.

Prim then briefly relates the well-known incidents of the Leon and O'Donnell insurrection of 1841, when the last-named General played anything but an heroic part. O'Donnell "pronounced," or rose in insurrection, in Pampeluna, against the Liberal and Constitutional Government of Espartero; and, although he had at his disposal a stronger force than the Captain-General of the province, he dared not meet him, but shut himself up in the citadel, and bombarded the town, finally retreating to France. The comparison between the conduct of the present Duke of Tetuan on that occasion and that of Don Juan Prim in the insurrection of 1866 is certainly not favourable to the man who has shown himself so unworthily ready to calumniate an old friend and comrade to whom he is under great obligations.

THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF INDIA.—The Queen has issued an order making certain changes in the constitution of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. She directs that the Order shall consist of the Sovereign, a Grand Master, and 175 ordinary Companions or Members together with such other and honorary Members as shall from time to time be appointed; that the reigning Sovereign of the United Kingdom shall be successively the Sovereign of the Order, and that the Viceroy of India for the time being shall be the Grand Master of the Order, and first and principal Knight Grand Commander of the Order; that the said 175 ordinary Companions or Members shall be divided into three classes, and that the first, or highest, of the said three classes shall consist of twenty-five members, to be styled and designated Knights Grand Commanders of the said Order; that the second class shall consist of fifty members, to be styled and designated Knights Commanders of the said Order; and that the third, or lowest, class shall consist of one hundred members, to be styled and designated Companions of the said Order.

M. GUIZOT ON THE PRESENT STATE OF RELIGION.—A new work, by M. Guizot, entitled "Meditations on the Present State of the Christian Religion," is on the eve of publication in Paris. After a résumé of the principal transactions which have taken place in France during the course of the present century, M. Guizot says:—"In the midst of the obstacles, oscillations, deviations, and faults which may be observed, there is an evident Christian awakening in Catholic France. Under the action of the causes which I have pointed out, there has been evidently progress in Christian faith, progress in Christian science, progress in Christian works, progress in Christian strength—progress incomplete and insufficient it may be, but still real and fruitful—the symptoms of a powerful vitality and of a hopeful future. Let not the enemies of Christianity deceive themselves; they are waging a war to the death, but it is not a dying foe they have to deal with." With regard to Protestant France, M. Guizot comes to a like conclusion. At the same time he admits that rationalism, positivism, pantheism, materialism, and scepticism are spreading like imperceptible and impalpable miasmata, and affecting classes of the population to whom the very meaning of the words is unknown. "Impiety," he says, "carelessness, and religious perplexity are evident and widespread amongst us. With regard to impiety, this is especially true of the working classes and the young generation of the middle class who are intended for the liberal professions." But religious indifference is even more widespread than impiety. "It is like a Dead Sea where no being lives—a sterile desert where no plant grows. If not the most shocking, it is the most serious moral evil of our time. It is against this evil that Christians must especially direct their efforts. Here there is an entire world and whole populations to be conquered." M. Guizot believes in the final victory of Christianity.

1 Stratford. — G. E. BONNER. Lower Searles-place. Temple-bar

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